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## Making Baby Smart: Words Are the Way

In Year One, Hearing Talk Shapes Mind

By Sandra Blakeslee  
New York Times Service

Scientists have found that the neurological foundations for rational thinking, problem solving and general reasoning appear to be largely established by age 1 — long before babies show any signs of knowing an abstraction from a pacifier.

Furthermore, new studies are showing that spoken language has an astonishing impact on an infant's brain development. In fact, some researchers say the number of words an infant hears each day is the single most important predictor of later intelligence, school success and social competence.

There is one catch — the words have to come from an attentive, engaged human being. As far as anyone has been able to determine, radio and television do not work.

"We now know that neural connections are formed very early in life and that the infant's brain is literally waiting for experiences to determine how connections are made," said Patricia Kuhl, a neuroscientist at the University of Washington in Seattle.

"We didn't realize until very recently how early this process begins," she said in a telephone interview. "For example, infants have learned the sounds of their native language by the age of six months."

This relatively new view of infant

brain development, supported by many scientists, has obvious political and social implications. It suggests that infants and babies need not only a loving, but talkative and articulate caretaker, and that a more verbal family will increase an infant's chances for success.

It challenges some deeply held beliefs — that infants will thrive intellectually if they are simply given lots of love and that efforts to purposely influence the cognitive development of babies are harmful.

If the period from birth to 3 is crucial, parents may assume a more critical role in a child's intellectual development than teachers, which is sure to provoke new debates about parental responsibility, said Irving Lazar, a professor of special education and resident scholar at the Center for Research in Human Development at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

The idea that early experience shapes human potential is not new, said Harry Chugani, a pediatric neurologist at Wayne State University in Detroit and one of the scientists whose research has shed light on critical periods in child brain development.

What is new is the extent of the research in the field known as cognitive neuroscience and the resulting synthesis of findings on the influence

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Chancellor Helmut Kohl, right, helping President Boris Yeltsin down from the Baden-Baden podium Thursday.

## Yeltsin Signals He'll Sign NATO Pact

By Alan Cowell  
New York Times Service

BADEN-BADEN, Germany — President Boris Yeltsin of Russia gave his firmest public commitment to date Thursday that he would sign an agreement with Western leaders in Paris on May 27 permitting the eastward expansion of NATO into areas once part of the defunct Warsaw Pact.

The pledge alleviated uncertainty that the signing would be put off because of disputes over military aspects of the

agreement, and seemed designed to increase pressure in negotiations between Moscow and the Western alliance.

Mr. Yeltsin also moved Thursday to ease the bitter strains between Russia and Germany over Bonn's demands for the return of priceless art works, archives and cultural assets looted by the Red Army as Nazi Germany collapsed in 1945. As a "gesture of friendship," Mr. Yeltsin said he had brought with him part of the archives of Walther Rathenau, a German politician in the 1920s.

After a meeting with Chancellor

Helmut Kohl in this spa town, Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Kohl said the agreement setting out the future security relationship between Russia and an expanded North Atlantic Treaty Organization would be negotiated by the May 27 target date.

Both men indicated, however, that a crucial part of the proposed agreement covering military deployments remained to be concluded and that Mr. Kohl had pledged to use his influence among

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## Nazi Plunder Sets Off Fight in Russia

By Michael R. Gordon  
New York Times Service

MOSCOW — In a drab concrete building just off the road to Sheremetyevo Airport lies a huge trove of European history.

It includes papers seized by the Soviet Army from the Nazis, who looted Europe's capitals during World War II. Among the papers are everything from the French government's most private memorabilia to documents captured from the Nazis themselves.

Now, the fate of these archives and the "trophy art" looted by the Nazis has become the focus of a white-hot political

debate here, with nationalists demanding that Russia keep the material for itself.

After months of hand-wringing over NATO expansion, the issue has emerged as one of Russia's most vexing foreign policy quandaries.

Although much of the attention has focused on the stolen art, officials at the archive said their files had a lasting importance to the nations from which they were taken.

"The historical significance is gigantic," said Mansur Mukhamedzhanov, chief archivist of the document collection. "It is like an excursion to the capitals of Western Europe. Just sitting

here, you can have a complete picture of the economic situation, diplomacy and culture in these countries during the first half of the century."

Nationalists in Russia's raucous Parliament appear less interested in strengthening ties with Germany than in trying to even the score for the Soviet property and lives lost in the war.

"They annihilated 26 million Russian citizens and we have to pay them?" Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the Russian ultranationalist leader, exclaimed.

The issue has a long and tangled history. During World War II, Germany

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## Dole Lends Gingrich \$300,000 To Pay Fine

Speaker Cites 'Duty'  
To Use Personal  
Funds for Penalty

By Brian Knowlton  
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — Newt Gingrich, the speaker of the House of Representatives, said Thursday that he would use a personal loan of \$300,000 from Bob Dole, the 1996 Republican presidential candidate, to pay an unprecedented penalty to the House of Representatives.

He said he hoped by doing so to put a lingering ethics case to rest.

The announcement, made in a nationally televised session of the House, came as a surprise. Mr. Gingrich had said that he would rather quit than use his own funds to make the payment.

The White House carefully avoided making any comment.

Analysts said the announcement might bolster Mr. Gingrich's political rehabilitation.

"He's pretty much put the fine issue behind him," Thomas Mann, director of governmental studies at the Brookings Institution, said. "By taking responsibility — even indirectly — for the penalty, he's met the immediate threat to his leadership."

Mr. Gingrich's generally vigorous leadership of House Republicans, a roller-coaster ride of many peaks and valleys, has been roiled since 1995 by ethics charges, mostly tied to his energetic use of nonprofit foundations to fuel his political career. The ethics charges, all brought by Democrats, were an increasingly serious distraction as he sought to push his party's conservative agenda and craft a Republican revival.

He told the House on Thursday that he felt a "moral obligation" to pay the \$300,000 penalty using personal funds, rather than campaign funds or donations from supporters. He said he did not want to be seen as "one more politician shirking his duty."

The Georgia Republican said he and his wife, Marianne, had decided that "whatever the consequences, we had to do what was best, what was right, morally and spiritually."

Much of the Gingriches' assets are held jointly or in Marianne Gingrich's name. She was known to be against the use of their personal funds to pay what she considered a politically motivated fine. "Marianne and I have spent hours

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### AGENDA

#### Netanyahu Rejects Calls to Resign

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, facing calls to resign because of a possible indictment in an influence-peddling scandal, said Thursday he had no plans to leave office.

"This government is not going anywhere," Mr. Netanyahu told a gathering of Likud loyalists.

here today to tell you we will continue to lead the state of Israel until the year 2000, and even beyond 2000!"

The police have recommended Mr. Netanyahu be charged with fraud and breach of trust. The state prosecutor is expected to decide by Monday whether to indict him.

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#### U.S. Awaits Response From Pyongyang

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Despite Pyongyang's demands, no new food aid pledges are expected until North Korea responds conclusively to a proposal for Korean Peninsula peace talks, U.S. officials said Thursday.

They said the North had begun a crucial meeting in New York on Wednesday.

nessday by accepting a U.S.-South Korean proposal for peace talks, but then conditioned that position with new demands for international assistance to meet severe food shortages.

As a result, "we don't have a deal," an official said.

Earlier article, Page 4.

The Dollar			
New York	Thursday 4 P.M.	previous close	
DM	1.7238	1.7238	
Pound	1.6295	1.6248	
Yen	125.575	125.775	
FF	5.8005	5.812	
The Dow			
Thursday close	previous close		
-21.27	6658.60	6679.87	
S&P 500			
change	Thursday 4 P.M.	previous close	
-1.75	761.78	763.53	

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## New Hong Kong Editor: He Edits What, Exactly?

By Edward A. Gargan  
New York Times Service

HONG KONG — As concerns grow over China's intrusion into Hong Kong's way of life, the territory's leading English-language newspaper, The South China Morning Post, has quietly hired a senior Chinese editor and installed him in an office across from the editor's, a position some at the paper describe as "political commissar."

The arrival of the Chinese journalist, Feng Xiliang, founder of China's official English-language paper, The China Daily, comes at a time of increasing concern among journalists and many in Hong Kong over the independence of Hong Kong's press and the growing practice of self-censorship in some papers.

"We have little idea what Mr. Feng is going to do," said a senior editor at the

paper, who preferred that he not be identified. "Is he pulling strings behind the scenes, screening stories, changing headlines?"

The paper's editor, Jonathan Fenby, described Mr. Feng as a consultant.

"He's doing various things for the paper," Mr. Fenby said, "and one of those things does have to do with editorial. But it's not vetting. I don't want to give it away for competitive reasons."

Robert Kwok, a Malaysian tycoon who sits on the Beijing-appointed body that is charting Hong Kong's future, bought The Morning Post from Rupert Murdoch several years ago.

Last year the paper dismissed a cartoonist whose strip satirized Deng Xiaoping. The strip, "The World of Lily Wong," was pulled in the middle of a series that was bitterly investigating the sale of organs from executed Chinese prisoners.

Also last year, Mr. Kwok brought onto the paper's board of directors Sir Percy Cradock, a former British Foreign Office official and a virulent critic of the expansion of democracy undertaken in Hong Kong by the last British governor, Chris Patten.

The Morning Post, while consistently uncharitable toward Mr. Patten, has not been uniformly uncritical of China. Last week, when China's appointee to run Hong Kong after July 1 announced plans to restrict civil liberties, The Post questioned the move.

Another editor at The Post, who declined to be named, conceded that the

## East Germany Sputters As West Germany Pays

By Edmund L. Andrews  
New York Times Service

LEIPZIG, Germany — For a place that is essentially bankrupt, the former East Germany looks, for all the world, like it's booming.

Since the Berlin Wall fell in late 1989, half of the homes in Eastern Germany have been renovated. Schools and museums, parks and playgrounds, factories and power plants have been showered with money.

The Trabant, the cramped, smoke-belching car that came to symbolize everything people hated about the old Communist regime, is all but extinct, now replaced by millions of shiny Volkswagens, BMWs and Mercedes-Benzes.

Eastern Germany — with an economic output last year of \$230 billion — now has twice as many malls per resident as Western Germany.

It has 5,000 miles (8,000 kilometers) of new highways, 2,800 miles of new railroad track and one of the world's best telephone systems.

To pay for all this, the German government and private companies have written checks for about \$1 trillion.

Nowhere has all that money had more impact than in this historic city 80 miles southwest of Berlin. Smartly dressed men and women eat and shop in the exquisitely renovated Art Deco

downtown district. Gold-painted sculptures adorn the renovated Baroque facade of the Commerzbank branch.

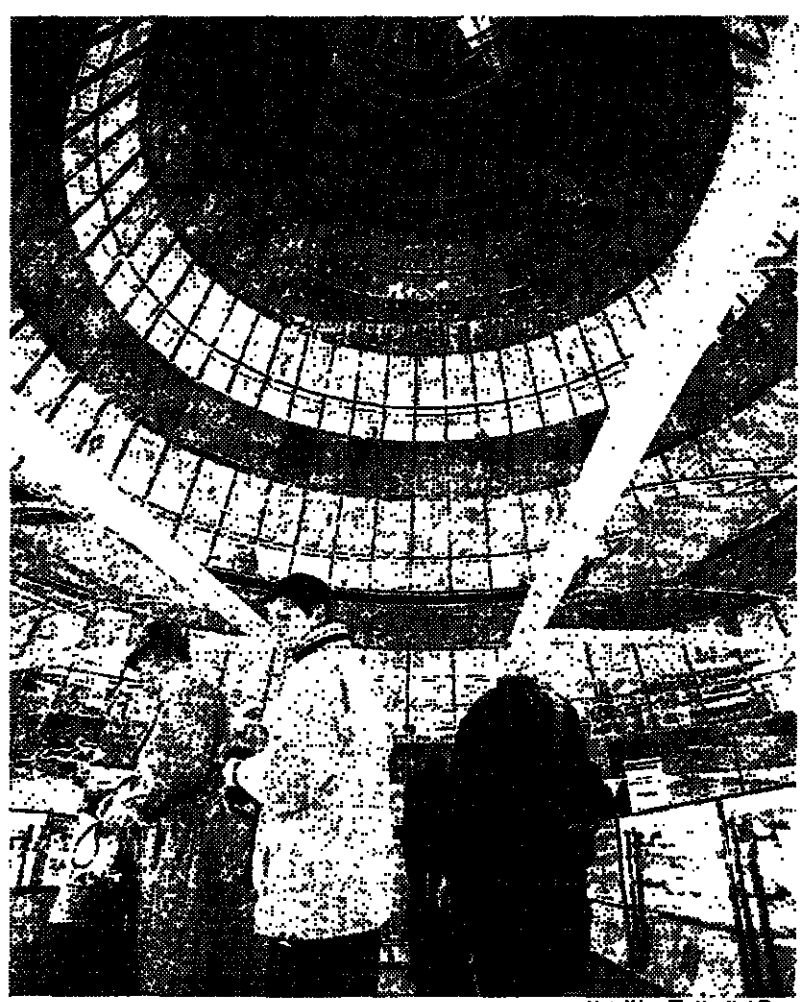
The once-crumbling skyline now blazes with office towers and luxury hotels. And just out of town are a gleaming new international airport, a \$1 billion convention center and a \$1.5 billion cargo-handling facility.

Since 1990, the German government in Bonn has given more than \$600 billion to its former Eastern rival through business subsidies, tax breaks and support payments for individuals. Enriched by the tax breaks and subsidies, companies have invested \$500 billion more.

But for all the cash thrown at Eastern Germany, the economy remains fundamentally bankrupt. Even as wages have skyrocketed in a rush to catch up with those in the West, there are not nearly enough real jobs to go around. Unemployment is at 25 percent, growth has almost ground to a halt, output per worker is still half of what it is in Western Germany, and exports are minuscule.

"Never before in history has one country spent so much money building pyramids," Norbert Walter, chief economist at Deutsche Bank in Frankfurt, said. "There has been a tremen-

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Eastern Germany's new gloss: a shopping mall in former East Berlin.

## U.S. Firms Find Mine of Opportunity in Rebel Zaire

By Cindy Shiner  
Washington Post Service

GOMA, Zaire — American companies are leading the race into rebel-held areas of Zaire to exploit the country's mineral wealth and rebuild its collapsed infrastructure — a major shift after years of European domination in Africa's largest French-speaking country.

Miners, bankers, lawyers and communications companies have been courting the rebel alliance led by Laurent Kabila, a former Marxist who has embraced a

free-market economy and pledges to overthrow the government of President Mobutu Sese Seko. Mr. Kabila's forces have captured almost half of Zaire in the six months since their armed rebellion began.

The Americans' inroads into Mr. Kabila's expand-

Where did the Treasury's money go? Page 2.

President Bill Clinton's home town of Hope, Arkansas, plans to explore southern Zaire's copper and cobalt deposits, create the world's largest zinc smelter and build a plant to produce acid for refining.

Under the deal, deposits and mines controlled by Zaire's state-owned mining company, Gécamines, would be upgraded and exploited by the American company in a joint venture with the rebels. America Mineral Fields would control 51 percent of the venture, and Mr. Kabila's Alliance of Democratic Forces

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## THE AMERICAS

## Complex Battlefield in the War Over Smoking

By Barnaby J. Feder  
New York Times Service

CHICAGO—The negotiations by the tobacco industry for a possible settlement of nearly all smoking-related litigation are playing out against a complex backdrop of legal disputes. And because many of these cases have reached critical stages, they could influence the course of the talks, giving an upper hand either to the industry or its opponents.

The legal wrangling runs the gamut from lawsuits filed by individual smokers—as well as by nonsmokers who assert they were hurt by the smoking of others—to class actions, to lawsuits by states and cities seeking compensation for spending on smoking-related illnesses on patients in the Medicaid health care system for the poor. On Monday, Alaska became the 23rd state to file such a Medicaid suit.

There are also legal battles over new federal regulations; over whether potentially damaging documents released by Liggett Group after its settlement last month with some opponents can be used in lawsuits against other companies; and,

in Massachusetts, over whether companies can be forced to list the ingredients of each brand on cigarette packages.

Shareholders suing tobacco companies have opened another legal front, asserting that the failure to disclose damaging information inflated share

## NEWS ANALYSIS

prices. There are fierce and long-running personal battles too, like Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp.'s lawsuit against Jeffrey Wigand, a former research executive now cooperating with plaintiff's lawyers. The company asserts that Mr. Wigand breached a confidentiality agreement.

Looming behind these civil cases are reported federal criminal and civil investigations of the industry for possible charges of perjury and other wrongdoing.

The industry is estimated to have spent about \$600 million last year, employing about 350 law firms around the nation. The industry calculated last year that it had spent \$100 million in the Minnesota Medicaid case alone.

Wall Street's focus is on Jacksonville, Florida, where a lawyer, Norbert Wilner, is seeking compensatory and punitive damages from RJR Nabisco Holdings Corp. in the 1995 death of a 49-year-old Florida woman, from lung cancer. Last August, in a case that is under appeal, Mr. Wilner won a \$750,000 verdict against Brown & Williamson, a subsidiary of BAT Industries PLC.

Another victory by Mr. Wilner would seriously undermine Wall Street's confidence that the tobacco industry is likely to continue its decades-old record of winning almost every courtroom battle.

Mary Aronson, a Washington analyst who specializes in litigation research, said another victory by Mr. Wilner "could show that the jury pool, which has tended to blame smokers for smoking, has really changed because of all the negative publicity."

The Jacksonville case will also test whether jurors are willing to conclude that companies engaged in a conspiracy to hide the addictiveness and dangers of smoking from the public. If Mr. Wilner persuades the jury to accept that argument, the result could be a large punitive

damage award that would probably stiffen the resolve of tobacco opponents to demand more concessions and larger payments in settlement negotiations.

Several other personal-injury trials are scheduled for this summer, including tests of whether the companies will be blamed for injuries from second-hand smoke. Broin vs. Philip Morris Cos., a class action on behalf of 60,000 flight attendants exposed to smoke on airlines, is scheduled to start on June 2 in Florida. On Aug. 18, in Mississippi, the estate of Burl Butler, a nonsmoking barber who died of lung cancer, is suing all of the major tobacco companies in Mr. Butler's death.

Even before the Jacksonville verdict is in, the tobacco landscape could be drastically altered by a ruling from a federal court in Greensboro, North Carolina, on whether the Food and Drug Administration has the power to regulate tobacco. Judge William Osteen has said he may rule as early as Monday on the industry's arguments for throwing out the sweeping drug agency regulations issued last year to restrict advertising and marketing of tobacco.

## Breaking Bread On Foreign Policy

WASHINGTON—Facing a series of legislative roadblocks to his foreign policy, President Bill Clinton has held a dinner for more than three dozen Democratic and Republican members of Congress at Blair House, pressing them to support his goals in Europe, with China and at the United Nations.

Mr. Clinton also lobbied the legislators heavily on the most immediate test of a bipartisan foreign policy: a treaty banning chemical weapons, which appears headed for a ratification vote in the Senate next week.

But despite the White House's stated goal of a bipartisan meeting, the crowd Wednesday night appeared to be weighted toward the Democrats.

The most important Republican critic of the chemical weapons ban, Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina, stayed away, reportedly because his granddaughter was in town. Further undermining bipartisanship, the speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, also pleaded a conflicting engagement.

Administration officials said that they were uncertain whether the treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention, would be ratified before the deadline of April 29, when it is scheduled to take effect.

Susan Irbay, a spokeswoman for the Senate majority leader, Trent Lott, said he hoped to hold a vote on the treaty Wednesday or Thursday but was trying to get unanimous consent from the Senate to schedule it. (NYT)

## Some Budget Hope

WASHINGTON—Nearing the end of what Senator Pete Domenici has declared "the make or break" week for budget negotiations, both sides in the talks say that they are still separated by a sea of political differences.

Nevertheless, Senator Domenici, Republican of New Mexico and chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, offered the rosiest outlook Wednesday since the daily negotiations began two weeks ago, saying he believed a deal could be reached by next week.

"I remain positive," Mr. Domenici said after he left the budget talks on Capitol Hill. "I still think the issues that separate us are very big and very

important, but I am willing to say come next week, we're apt to get a budget. Democrats and the White House are beginning to understand what we need, and we're beginning to understand some of their concerns."

Franklin Raines, director of the Office of Management and Budget and the chief negotiator for the White House, also tried to put the best face on the talks with the Republicans. "I think that as the process has gone on, they have found that the president's budget has many features that they can find agreeable," he said. (NYT)

## More Donor Uproar

WASHINGTON—Two businesswomen whose close ties to Alexis Herman, President Clinton's choice for labor secretary, have raised questions about her nomination, gave \$150,000 to Democratic Party organizations in a string of donations last fall, party records show.

The donations were made about the time that one of the women, Vanessa Weaver, took a Singapore business meeting seeking approval for a \$560 million satellite project to a fund-raising event where he met Mr. Clinton.

The figure is three times what the two women, Ms. Weaver and her sister, Caryll Weaver, had previously been reported as having donated.

The Weavers' involvement in the satellite venture has raised new questions that could cloud Ms. Herman's chances to win Senate confirmation. Officials at the White House acknowledged that Ms. Herman, a White House aide, last year put some satellite executives in touch with an administration official who was involved in setting telecommunications policies. (NYT)

## Quote/Unquote

Attorney General Janet Reno, vigorously defending her decision against seeking appointment of an independent counsel to investigate Democratic campaign fund-raising: "I keep in mind what I have on my wall. It's what Lincoln said. 'If you were to believe all the bad things that were said about you, you might as well close up shop and go out of business.' I'm damned if I do and damned if I don't, so the best thing I can do is ignore the politics, ignore the pressure." (AP)

## CIA Rejects Blame Over 1991 Release Of Nerve Gas

By Philip Shenon  
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON—The Central Intelligence Agency says it is being unfairly blamed for an incident in which thousands of U.S. troops may have been exposed to nerve gas shortly after the 1991 Gulf War.

At a congressional hearing, a CIA official, Robert Walpole, said that the agency had "provided multiple warnings to our military forces in the field" about the possibility that chemical arms were stored in the vicinity of a Iraqi ammunition depot that was blown up by U.S. soldiers in March 1991.

The CIA has been widely criticized because it did not pass on evidence it had before the war that chemical arms had been stored in that particular depot in the 1980s. The depot, near the southern Iraqi village of Kamisiyah, was later determined to have contained tons of nerve gas and other chemical weapons.

Mr. Walpole, the CIA's senior investigator on the issue, testified that "warnings were given before demolition activities were conducted."

His testimony reflected growing concern among senior CIA officials that the agency has been unfairly singled out for criticism over the incident, and that military commanders also bear responsibility for the demolition.

He conceded that before the war, the agency failed to include Kamisiyah on a list of possible chemical-warfare sites, even though there was evidence that chemical arms had been stored there as early as 1984. But he pointed to several newly declassified intelligence reports showing that during and shortly after the war, the CIA and the Defense Intelligence Agency provided the military with warnings that chemical arms had been stored in the vicinity of the dump.

At the joint hearing of two House subcommittees Wednesday, lawmakers also heard from an army general who oversaw the demolition of the depot in 1991 and says that he is suffering a sleep disturbance and some of the other symptoms that have come to be known collectively as Gulf War Syndrome.

The officer, Major General Robert Flowers, said he learned only last year of the possibility that he and his troops may have been exposed to nerve gas. Declassified intelligence reports show that the CIA and military commanders knew that Iraqi chemical weapons might have been stored in unmarked shells. Had they known of the intelligence about Kamisiyah and about the unmarked shells, the general said, his soldiers would have been more careful.

There is no proof that chemical weapons are responsible for any of the health problems reported by thousands of Gulf War veterans.

## Powell Defends His Actions

General Colin Powell told lawmakers Thursday that he and his military colleagues were fully prepared for the possible use of chemical weapons by Iraq during the Gulf War. The Associated Press reported from Washington.

"I reject any suggestion that somehow we were indifferent to our troops," the retired general said.

Testifying before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, he defended his actions, which included approving the rush into use of a chemical weapons vaccine, ordering the air strikes against possible chemical storage facilities and ensuring that the troops had full protective gear.

"No item received more attention or was of greater concern to us than the possibility that the Iraqi army would use unconventional weapons," he said.



Dr. Bernard Rostker, left, the Pentagon's point man on Gulf War illnesses, Mr. Walpole of the CIA and Colonel Thomas Leavitt of the army's inspections division, taking oaths before the Veterans' Affairs panel.

## We're No Democrats, Republicans Say in Holding Donor Gala

By Katharine Q. Seelye  
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON—Undeterred by the furor over campaign fund-raising, Republicans are planning a black-tie dinner next month featuring congressional leaders in the hope of attracting contributors who will give or raise as much as \$250,000 each.

For that amount, donors will get breakfast and photographs with the Senate majority leader, Trent Lott of Mississippi, and the House speaker, Newt Gingrich of Georgia, who will share their "opinions on our party's issues and strategies for the 105th Congress," the invitation says.

They are also guaranteed a seat at one of the four head tables with Republican luminaries at the dinner, to be held May 13 at a Washington hotel. In addition to breakfast and dinner, they are invited to lunch with Republican leaders in the House and Senate, who will talk about "Republican strategies for the upcoming 1997-98 elections." Their donations earn them the title of "co-chairman" of the event.

The committee expects a handful of the more

than 2,000 guests to give or raise \$250,000 each. It hopes to raise a total of \$11 million.

A spokeswoman for the Republican committee, Mary Crawford, said there was nothing untoward about the party's soliciting large donations and offering contributors a chance to rub shoulders with congressional leaders. It is the fund-raising practices of Democrats, not Republicans, Ms. Crawford said, that are being questioned.

The Republicans are so certain of their ground that a pile of "Gala Facts" sheets describing the benefits for each level of contributor were openly available at the committee's spring meeting in Florida last weekend. The planners reflected the attitude of Mr. Lott, who earlier described the solicitation of unlimited money as "the American way."

Critics say the Republicans are demonstrating a surprisingly casual approach to the appearance of trading money for access.

"It's the Republican version of your White House coffee, where large donors are being sold access to the leaders of the 105th Congress," said Kent Cooper, executive director of the Center for

Responsive Politics, a public-interest lobby that promotes overhauling campaign financing.

These are the people who set the agenda for Congress, he added, "and their time is being auctioned to the wealthy in the guise of party fund-raising."

According to the fact sheets, those who give or raise \$100,000 are designated "vice chairmen" of the event and receive essentially the same treatment as those who give \$250,000, except they are not seated at the head tables. Instead they are promised "VIP seating."

Those who give or raise \$45,000, dubbed "deputy chairmen," get no breakfast and only "preferential seating" at the gala, while \$15,000 buys a table and gets the giver on the dinner committee. The minimum amount accepted is \$1,000, which buys only a general admission ticket to the gala and no special appreciation.

The Republican National Committee is soliciting the unlimited, unrestricted donations from individuals, corporations or political action committees—and will distribute the cash to Re-

publicans running for the House and Senate, governorships and state legislatures across the country in the 1997 and 1998 elections.

The event comes at a time when political donations during President Bill Clinton's re-election campaign last year, particularly such "soft money" contributions to the Democratic National Committee, are under fierce scrutiny. News media and congressional committees are looking into questionable contributions, including whether the Chinese government tried to buy influence with the White House through large contributions.

The only sign that Republicans have any concern over financial contributions is a new warning label—"contributions from foreign nationals are prohibited"—on their fund-raising materials. Still, Republicans are confident that the public is making a distinction between them and the Democrats.

"The climate that our country is in right now was generated by what was clearly an orchestrated effort on the part of the Democrat Party to solicit and receive funds from illegal sources," Ms. Crawford said. "That is not a bipartisan problem."

## Away From Politics

• Two jetliners came within about 300 feet (90 meters) of each other after a pilot apparently failed to follow instructions from the control tower in Los Angeles. (AP)

• The word about the April 19 anniversary of the Waco, Texas, and Oklahoma City tragedies has gone out to Social Security administration offices across the country, which are quietly taking precautions. In 1993, the compound of the Branch Davidian religious cult burned to the ground near Waco, ending a standoff with authorities. In 1995, a bomb exploded outside a federal building in Oklahoma City, killing 168. (AP)

• To prevent a mob informer, Salvatore Gravano, from profiting any more from his Mafia days, New York state officials have moved to confiscate payments he could obtain from a book describing his underworld career and his reasons for becoming a turncoat. (NYT)

• Governor Fyfe Symington of Arizona says he will sign a bill to neutralize a state ballot initiative that allows doctors to prescribe marijuana, heroin and other generally illegal drugs to sick or dying patients. The state senate voted, 17 to 13, to require that any drug dispensed as medicine be approved by the Food and Drug Administration. The moves will repeal the initiative before it has had a chance to take effect. (NYT)

• The number of marriages annulled with the Roman Catholic Church's blessing has risen from hundreds to tens of thousands a year as church leaders in America have taken a more modern view of marriage. (AP)

## Study Points to Drug-Free Blood Pressure Relief

By Thomas H. Maugh II  
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES—A diet rich in fruits, vegetables and low-fat dairy products can reduce blood pressure as much as the most commonly used hypertension drugs, eliminating the need for the expensive drugs in many patients with mild hypertension, according to a study published Thursday.

Previous studies showed that reducing weight and salt consumption and minimizing alcohol use also could reduce blood pressure. But the new study, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, is the first to show that changing the overall diet will reduce blood pressure independently of those other factors.

Widespread adoption of the combination diet, the team said, could reduce the risk of heart disease by 15 percent and the likelihood of stroke by 27 percent.

"With nearly 50 million Americans having hypertension, and considering the billions of dollars spent each year on blood-pressure medications, these findings have important public health con-

siderations," George Blackburn, president of the American Society for Clinical Nutrition, said.

"This is one of the best pieces of news for people in this country in a long time."

**Fruits, vegetables, and low-fat dairy products could reduce the risk of heart disease.**

said David McCarron of the Oregon Health Sciences University. "We've never had a dietary intervention that gives this kind of effect in terms of improving life expectancy."

The study was not designed to determine which components of the diet were responsible for its beneficial effects, but Mr. McCarron and others speculated that the calcium in milk may offer the greatest help in lowering blood pressure. Many blood-pressure drugs, such as diuretics and calcium-channel blockers, work by increasing calcium retention.

"It's reasonable to assume

that the dairy products in the diet are doing the same thing," Mr. McCarron said.

High blood pressure is one of the primary risk factors for heart attacks and stroke. According to the American Heart Association, at least 24 percent of Americans have blood pressure greater than the ideal level of 120/80. Four out of every five of those have moderate hypertension, meaning their blood pressure is between 120/80 and 160/95.

The trial, called Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension, or DASH, was sponsored by the National Institutes of Health. The team

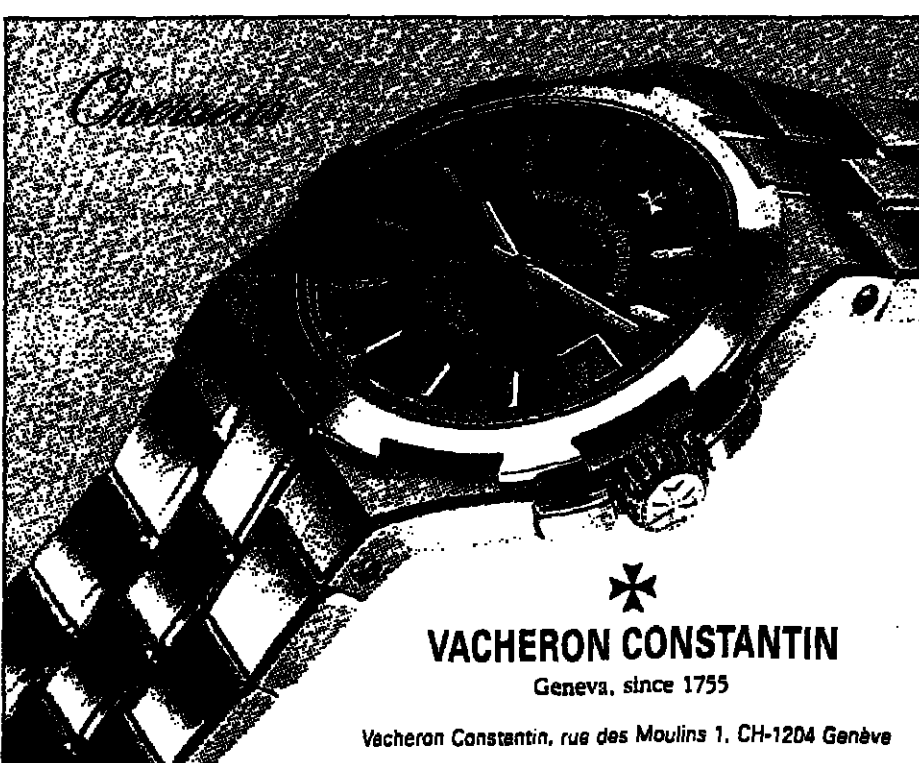
enrolled 459 people with blood pressures below 160/95—about two-thirds of whom had moderate hypertension, while the rest had borderline normal blood pressure—in centers in Baltimore, Boston, Durham, North Carolina, and Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Almost half were women, and 59 percent were black. None was taking medication to control blood pressure.

Participants received all their food from the study for 11 weeks, and on weekdays they ate their main meal at the clinics to ensure compliance. For the first three weeks of the study, each participant re-

ceived a "typical American" control diet, then each was randomly assigned to one of three groups.

One group continued to receive the control diet; one received a diet rich in fruits and vegetables; and one received the combination diet, rich in fruits, vegetables and low-fat dairy products and with reduced amounts of saturated fat. All diets contained the same amount of salt.

The effects of the diet were obvious within one week and reached their maximum value within two weeks. Blood pressures then remained stable for the final six weeks.



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Herald Tribune

THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER



## ASIA/PACIFIC

## Amnesty Is Hinted As 2 Ex-Presidents Lose Korea Appeal

By Velisarios Kartoulas  
International Herald Tribune

SEOUL — Two former Korean presidents lost their final appeals Thursday against convictions for mass-murdering a 1979 coup and a later massacre amid signs that the government might soon pardon them in an attempt to set aside South Korea's brutal past and bolster its nascent democracy.

South Koreans generally embraced the rulings as an important step in the nation's continuing transition from military dictatorship to full democracy.

But there was also some anger over suggestions that the government should consider granting amnesties to the two men to halt a cycle of revenge and recrimination in South Korean politics.

The Supreme Court upheld a life sentence against Chun Doo Hwan, 66, a former president, and a 17-year sentence against his successor, Roh Tae Woo, 64.

They were found guilty of treason and mutiny in a coup that propelled the two former army generals to power in 1979 and in a massacre of some 200 pro-democracy protesters in 1980.

After the rulings, the main opposition party, the National

Congress for New Politics, said it could discuss amnesties for the two if they showed repentance and if public opinion shifted in favor of pardons.

Conservative lawmakers, including members of President Kim Young Sam's party, called for the government to consider amnesties immediately. Analysts said the calls appeared to be a prelude to pardons in as little as a year.

"Holding on to the past not only hurts the management of the nation but it also creates confusion," said Chang Dal Joong, a professor of political science at Seoul National University. "So pardons would be like moving forward."

But dissidents insisted that the governing party had opened the amnesty debate not to buoy South Korean democracy but to divert attention from a kickbacks scandal involving the Hanbo Group, which collapsed in January under debts of \$5.8 billion.

The scandal has cast suspicion over President Kim's favorite son and has thwarted the government's attempts to show that top-level corruption is a relic.

Prosecutors have arrested the chairman of Hanbo, three lawmakers in the governing party, a former cabinet minister and six other prominent figures in the affair.

The Supreme Court also upheld an appeals court decision to fine Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh heavily for corruption.

It upheld suspended sentences against seven other defendants convicted of bribing them, including the head of the Daewoo business group.

## Pyongyang Wants Pledge Of Food Aid

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SEOUL — A demand by North Korea for American and South Korean food aid delayed agreement at a crucial meeting on Pyongyang's participation in intra-Korean peace talks, South Korean officials said Thursday.

Senior diplomats from the three countries held inconclusive negotiations Wednesday in New York, where Deputy Foreign Minister Kim Gye Gwan was to give North Korea's answer to a proposal for peace talks.

"North Korea indicated a positive response," Lee Kyu Hyung, a South Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman, said. "The North said food aid was not a precondition for the peace talks but nevertheless repeated that it would be difficult for them to come to the peace table unless food aid was assured."

The three sides agreed to continue talks Friday. They hope the North Koreans will agree to negotiations to end the state of war that has existed since the 1950-53 Korean conflict. China would join those negotiations.

"We made some encouraging progress," the U.S. negotiator, Charles Kartman, said after the talks Wednesday. "But there's still more to be done." (Reuters, AP)



BATTLE OF OKINAWA — Anti-American demonstrators scuffling with the police inside the Japanese Parliament in Tokyo on Thursday, where a bill was passed allowing the government to extend leases for U.S. bases on Okinawa.

## China Tightens Up on Corruption

Reuters

BEIJING — The Communist Party has stepped up its battle against corruption by banning senior officials from seeking profits for themselves or for friends, family or staff members, the People's Daily reported Thursday.

The party recently issued a code of conduct banning officials from personally engaging in profit-seeking activities or using their positions or influence to make illicit profits, the newspaper said.

The code of conduct also bans officials from seeking gains for friends, relatives and staff members and prohibits extravagance, waste and squandering public funds, it said. It also bans spouses and children of Com-

munist Party members at levels equal to or above that of a provincial governor or minister from running private businesses or from working at wholly foreign-owned companies in the region under the official's jurisdiction.

"This is a major event in the building of a clean and honest government," a commentary in People's Daily, the party newspaper, said.

Corruption, virtually unknown in China in the years after the puritanical Communists toppled the allegedly corruption-riddled Nationalists and swept to power in 1949, has made a strong comeback during the country's nearly two decades of market-reform efforts.

Chinese leaders have warned that corruption is a virus that could topple the party.

## BRIEFLY

### Tung's Rights Vow Is Welcomed

HONG KONG — The Democratic Party cautiously welcomed Thursday a pledge by the territory's future leader, Tung Chee-hwa, that people would keep their basic freedoms after China takes over July 1.

On Wednesday, Mr. Tung vigorously defended proposals that would ban foreign funding of political parties and give the police expanded powers to curb public protests, though he said that "peaceful and lawful demonstrations can and must be allowed to continue."

Anthony Cheung, vice president of the Democratic Party told Hong Kong radio: "We welcome this pledge that the right to protest, the right to demonstrate, the freedom of assembly and association, all of these are people's rights and should be part of Hong Kong's political culture."

"But we question a lot of the substance of Mr. Tung's proposals on how to amend the Societies Ordinance and the Public Order Ordinance," he said. "Some of these proposals have in fact infringed the rights that Mr. Tung was talking about." (Reuters)

### Exiled Prince Returning to Paris

PARIS — Prince Norodom Sirivudh of Cambodia was due in Paris late Thursday after an abortive attempt to return home to contest charges that he plotted to kill the second prime minister, Hun Sen, his sister Norodom Vacheara said.

Prince Sirivudh flew to Hong Kong on Monday, but airlines refused to take him to Phnom Penh after Cambodia said he would be arrested on arrival.

"He is very disappointed, very angry," the prince's sister

said, adding, that he would "continue fighting to demand that his trial be reviewed." She said he would leave Paris in a few days for an undisclosed destination. (Reuters)

### China Seeks Aid After Quakes

BEIJING — China appealed Thursday for international aid to help rebuild an area of its northwestern Xinjiang region devastated by six major earthquakes this year.

The Civil Affairs Ministry is seeking aid to rebuild towns in Jiashi county that were destroyed by the quakes, state radio said. A total of 46 people were killed by the earthquakes and thousands of people were made homeless.

The radio said 15 million yuan (\$1.8 million) had been allocated by the Finance Ministry to aid victims. (Reuters)

### 'Stumbling Block' in India Talks

NEW DELHI — The ousted United Front coalition asked the Congress (I) party on Thursday to withdraw its official bid to form a new government ahead of a coalition agreement on a new prime minister.

The Congress party president, Sitaram Kesri, wrote to President Shankar Dayal Sharma on March 31, staking his party's claim to head a new government.

"The letter is proving to be a stumbling block," a senior United Front official said.

A United Front spokesman, Jaipal Reddy, said the front's steering committee would meet Friday morning to elect a new leader to replace H.D. Deve Gowda, the caretaker prime minister. It was the insistence of Congress that Mr. Deve Gowda be replaced that triggered the crisis. (Reuters)

## BOOKS

### STANLEY KUBRICK: A Biography

By Vincent LoBrutto.  
Illustrated. 579 pages. \$29.95.  
Donald I. Fine.

Reviewed by Michiko Kakutani

PERHAPS the most telling revelations in this long, turgid and not very illuminating biography occur early on in the volume, when the author, Vincent LoBrutto, tells us about the artists that Stanley Kubrick admired or studied when he was young: the photographer Weegee, the jazz musician Gene Krupa, the Russian cineaste Sergei Eisenstein and the writers Dostoyevsky, Kafka, Sartre and Camus.

In these artists' work can be discerned the roots of the mature Kubrick's films: his observant, unforgiving eye, his virtuosic use of music, his innovative mastery of cinematic technique and his Hobbesian vision of life as nasty, brutish and short.

The emotional sources for Kubrick's artistic vision, however, are not examined in this volume, nor are his movies analyzed in a meaningful way. Instead, LoBrutto — a film historian and editor who teaches at the School of Visual Arts in Manhattan — gives us reams and reams of stories and reminiscences about Kubrick, culled from magazine articles, newspaper stories and interviews with people who knew or worked with him.

Although it's clear that LoBrutto has done a prodigious amount of research, there is no critical intelligence at work in this volume. In fact, the author writes as a film buff — someone who's interested in all the minutiae of the filmmaker's life, from the type of camera lens he used to shoot a particular scene to the clothes he wore on a particular day.

LoBrutto cites a number of Kubrick's signature (she found him "to be a perfectionist, with fears and anxieties") and suggests a parallel between the famous bone, turning end over end, in the prologue to "2001" and a pickle that the young Kubrick once flung in the air in a fit of youthful exasperation.

There is little effort on LoBrutto's part to sort out rumor and speculation from fact. Instead, we are given lengthy accounts of the experiences that various actors, writers and technicians had with Kubrick — accounts that range from the rhapsodic (Matthew Modine: "He's probably the most heartfelt person I ever met.") to the disgruntled (Kirk Douglas: "You don't have to be a nice person to be extremely talented.")

Although LoBrutto writes that his book is meant to "both shatter and inform the myths" that have grown up around the reclusive director, this biography sheds little new light on "the legend of Stanley Kubrick," that is, the popular image of him, in LoBrutto's words, as "an intense, cool,

misanthropic cinematic genius who obsesses over every detail, a man who lives a hermetic existence, doesn't travel and is consumed with phobic neuroses."

If anything, the book actually fuels this simplistic myth. LoBrutto not only cites numerous examples of Kubrick's eccentric behavior (like flying his own New York dentist over to England so he would not have to see a new one) but also dwells, at enormous length, on the director's obsessive perfectionism.

One of his assistants is quoted saying that the director has precise requirements for everything (like wanting memo pads to be exactly six inches by four), while one of his editors is quoted on his callous disregard for anything not directly connected with his work. (When the editor's finger got caught in the editing machine, Kubrick is said to have ignored the incident, arguing, "There's no point in giving you sympathy after it's done.")

We're told about Kubrick's penchant for ordering actors to do take after take after take (up to 70 to 80 for each setup), and the fanatical research he does before making a film. In the case of "2001," he supposedly ordered up "every science fiction book ever written."

In the case of an unrealized project on Napoleon, several hundred books on the subject, including 19th-century English and French accounts, were read and dissected; the

material was then broken down into categories on everything from his food preferences to the weather on the day of a specific battle.

For all of LoBrutto's similarly obsessive research methods — his apparent determination to give the reader every fact and piece of gossip he can find on Kubrick — there is no wide-angle take on what all of this might mean. What palpable effect does Kubrick's mania for detail have on his movies? Where does his need for control come from, and why has his paranoia escalated, as LoBrutto suggests, with each passing year?

For that matter, what are the

roots of the dark, pessimistic view of mankind evinced in nearly all his films, from "Paths of Glory" through "Dr. Strangelove" and "A Clockwork Orange"? Is it simply a philosophical notion rooted in the director's youthful taste for existential novels and film noir, or does it spring from some more personal experience of the world?

LoBrutto does not grapple with such questions. His account of Kubrick's youth and apprenticeship reads like a dry résumé: a recitation of the Kubrick family's moves from one address in the Bronx to another, repeated mentions of young Stanley's poor atten-

dance record in school and a plodding summary of the assignments he took as a photographer for Look magazine.

When it comes to Kubrick's films, LoBrutto proves an equally flat-footed tour guide, though the die-hard movie buff can glean some interesting tidbits from this volume. One learns that Kubrick removed a farcical pie fight from "Dr. Strangelove" because it did not jibe with the satiric tone of the rest of the movie, that the background voices in the "Hail, Caesar!" scene in "Spartacus" were taken from a Michigan State-Notre Dame football game.

LoBrutto also makes some interesting comparisons between Kubrick's use of specific cinematic devices like long tracking shots, gliding camera movements and severely angled shots and the pioneering work of Max Ophüls and Orson Welles. Such technical discussions, however, do not communicate the overall achievement of Kubrick's movies. There is no real assessment of the themes that animate the filmmaker's work, no real appreciation of his cinematic artistry.

Michiko Kakutani is on the staff of The New York Times.

## Across Yalu River, 'Children Dying'

### Traders See North Korea Famine

By Steven Mufson

Washington Post Service

DANDONG, China — About 200 to 300 trucks a day cross Friendship Bridge over the Yalu River here, hauling sacks of food and other desperately needed goods to North Korea. When the traders and drivers return, they carry tales of starvation and desperation in the ailing Stalinist nation.

A group of Chinese truck drivers waiting at the foot of the bridge Wednesday reported that they had seen starving children in North Korea.

A man who would only give his surname as Re and who was waiting to drive construction supplies to the Chinese Embassy in Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, said that on a recent trip he saw one dead child and two others nearly dead, apparently from hunger, who had been abandoned by the roadside.

"I've seen schoolchildren staggering like drunks because they are so hungry," said a trader named Liu, who has a small Chinese medicine shop nearby and who said he was in North Korea a few days ago.

"Kids are coming to towns from the countryside to beg," he said.

Another Chinese trader here, who recently visited relatives in North Korean villages, said: "People are too weak to plant. And even if they could plant, they'd be too weak to harvest."

These are just some of the stories told here in Dandong, a Chinese city facing North Korea across the Yalu. The most important of four major routes for the dwindling trade across the river boundary, Dandong is a listening post for measuring just how grave a food crisis North Korea faces.

Many Chinese and Korean families have relatives on opposite sides of the river, but the trade is dominated by Chinese citizens who can legally cross the frontier. North Koreans generally are not allowed to leave their country.

Judging from reports here, the economic situation in North Korea is dire and becoming worse. Traders and drivers also tell of idle factories, collapsing agricultural collectives, rampant corruption and political disillusionment.

Several hungry refugees have escaped to Dandong, residents say, but were returned after being caught by the Chinese authorities.

Gauging the depth of North Korea's crisis is a critical issue as other countries try to decide whether — and how much — to help a Communist-style dictatorship whose planned economy is falling apart.

Disastrous floods there in the last two years have compounded woes that have been mounting since the 1991 breakup of the Soviet Union, North Korea's longtime patron.

International aid experts

who have visited North Korea also have reported food shortages and related disease. Last month, Arthur Holcombe, the Beijing-based head of the UN Development Program, reported seeing cases of rickets and scurvy.

But the personal accounts of traders in this Chinese city provide more graphic images of a nation in crisis.

"Last year it was bad," said Mr. Liu's wife. "This year it's worse."

Because of the large numbers of ethnic Koreans who live in China's Liaoning and Jilin border provinces and the numbers of ethnic Chinese who live in North Korea, interest in North Korean affairs runs high in Dandong. Local television carries transmissions from both North and South Korea.

On Tuesday, a North Korean broadcast showed thousands of people in Pyongyang laying flowers before giant statues of the late Kim Il Sung on what would have been the 85th birthday of the man known there as the "Great Leader."

"Lies, all lies," said Wang Xianhua, a Chinese trader who lived in North Korea until she was 19 and makes sales trips there ranging in duration from two weeks to three months. "Ordinary people don't believe in the leadership anymore."

She has a shop packed tight with low-quality Chinese goods that are difficult to sell to Chinese consumers — cheap rubber boots, sugar-coated peanuts, stale crackers in large plastic bags, cheap clothing and blankets.

When she crosses the river, North Korean customers pay with Chinese or U.S. currency. Barter, once prevalent, has largely ended because the North Koreans have little to swap aside from shrimp, prawns and crabs.

Children, her relatives told her, have turned to begging, roaming markets with metal plates in outstretched hands.

"Children, even at a young age when they should be running around making mischief, are dying of hunger," she said.

She said that she had not seen anyone starving but that she had seen children with distended bellies that indicate severe malnutrition.

She complained about corruption in China but said North Korea was even more corrupt. Officials and factory managers are selling factory supplies and equipment on the side to make money and what food there is has been hidden and sold on the black market, she said.

"No food is being sold," she said. "And if you have some food in your hand, someone will steal it."

She said her relatives in North Korea were factory workers but that their factories had not operated in more than three years because of a lack of raw materials, fuel and equipment.

## BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

DAN Rotman is the principal author of "A Game of Revenge," published by Magnus Books. Those who like reading about such mundane subjects as gambling, arson, wiretaps, stock swindles and assassinations should send \$10.95 to one of the co-authors, Richard Rogers, P.O. Box 3721, Palm Desert, California 92261.

Rotman has long been one of America's best card players and he demonstrated it on the diagrammed deal. If you wish to match your skill with his, cover the East-West hands and plan the play in three no-trump. West has

opened three diamonds preemptively, and led the queen of that suit.

Rotman, as declarer, won with dummy's king thinking that if West held one entry, it was vital to remove it before the diamonds were established. The entry could be the spade ace, the spade queen or the club king, which made spades a 2-to-1 favorite. And if West held the club king he might also have the jack, probably a fatal combination.

At the second trick Rotman therefore led a spade to the king. When this held the trick he led a second spade, removing West's queen, his potential entry. West persevered with the diamond jack, establishing his suit, but he had little hope

of regaining the lead. South took his diamond ace, confident that East had no more cards in that suit, and led another spade in the faint hope of an even split. East took his two spade tricks and shifted to the club deuce. South finessed the queen, cashed the ace and played the ten, forcing East to win and play a heart.

When the queen was led to dummy's king and the club eight was cashed, there was one more hurdle to cross at the 12th trick. Had East made a tricky play of the heart queen without the jack? That was certainly possible, but Rotman guessed right, finessing the ten to bring home a very-well played game.

NORTH			
♠ J843			
♥ K982			
♦ K			
♣ 8763			
WEST (D)			
♠ Q8	♠ A1092		
♥ 73	♥ QJ84		
♦ QJ108742	♦ 83		
♣ J5	♣ K92		
SOUTH			
♠ K75			
♥ A106			
♦ A85			
♣ A104			

North and South were vulnerable.

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
3♦	Pass	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

West led the diamond queen.

Chirac Lets Run Early Election

To Turks Opp



## EUROPE



Election workers from the Conservative Party's central office trying to keep the press away from Mr. Major on Thursday as he makes a campaign tour of a shopping center in Elmsmere Port, Cheshire.

## Major Yields to Party Rebels

### He Will Not Enforce Tory Line on Single Currency

**Reuters**  
LONDON — Prime Minister John Major on Thursday offered a concession to Conservative rebels opposed to a European single currency in a bid to end divisions and get a grip on his campaign for the May 1 election.

At an impromptu press conference in northwest England, Mr. Major said that allowing members of Parliament to vote their consciences rather than following the party line on whether to join a single European currency was "almost certainly the right way to handle it."

His announcement took everyone by surprise — including his own finance minister, Kenneth Clarke. The move was nevertheless hailed by aides and many of the party's so-called Euroskeptics as a dramatic but workable solution to a problem that has dogged Mr. Major's every effort to unite his party during almost six and a half years in office.

Opposition leaders greeted this development as a sign of

increasing disarray in the Conservative ranks.

Labour's economics spokesman, Gordon Brown, told reporters, "We now have a leader who has lost control of his party."

Menzies Campbell of the minority Liberal Democrats said that the prime minister was "not only abdicating the leadership of the warring Tory party but completely capitulating to the Tory Euro-rebels."

The shift over the European question came as Mr. Major fought to heal divisions in his ruling Conservative Party over Europe, the same issue that led to the ousting of his predecessor, Margaret Thatcher, as party leader and prime minister in November 1990.

Mr. Major has been left reeling by the decision of more than 200 Conservative candidates, including three junior ministers, to campaign against a European single currency in defiance of government policy, which is to wait to see if it is in Britain's interest to join.

Mr. Major said it was "frustrating" that some members of his party were "unwisely" stepping out of line on the issue. But he repeated his appeal, made first in a television broadcast Wednesday night and backed up in full-page newspaper advertisements Thursday, for party candidates not to tie his hands ahead of negotiations on Europe's future.

He told reporters on his plane, as he carried on a relentless schedule of campaigning for re-election, that he was delighted Europe was at the top of the election agenda.

But he said that he had little choice but to accept a free vote on the single currency project.

Some of the shine was taken off the news by the admission in a radio interview by Mr. Clarke, the chancellor of the Exchequer, that he did not know about Mr. Major's decision or announcement in advance.

Asked if he had been consulted, Mr. Clarke said, "No, I wasn't," before hastily backing Mr. Major's line.

## Chirac Lets Rumors Swirl: Early Election or Reshuffle?

Agence France-Presse

PARIS — Speculation mounted Thursday that President Jacques Chirac of France would either call early legislative elections or reshuffle his government to ease France's entry into the single European currency and aid his program of internal reforms.

Politicians have repeatedly urged one option or the other in recent days, and Mr. Chirac and Prime Minister Alain Juppé have been consulting.

Dissolution of the National Assembly and early elections appeared the more likely possibility Thursday after press revelations that French public deficits will be higher than expected this year, forcing a tightening of austerity measures next year.

Holding an early vote would enable Mr. Chirac to campaign while avoiding the debate on European monetary union that could be expected if the elections were staged on schedule in March 1998, analysts said.

The center-left dailies Liberation and Le Monde both said Budget Ministry experts had estimated in an internal document that, in the absence of corrective measures, the deficit would amount to 3.8 percent of gross domestic product in 1997, well beyond the limit of 3 percent set by the Maastricht Treaty, which governs the monetary union. The Finance Ministry, however, denied the existence of such a document.

Latest opinion polls show that early elections will be risky for the right, with a backlash expected after the rout of the left in the legislative elections of March 1993. The two latest surveys were contradictory. One predicted a narrow victory for the left, while the other indicated the right would prevail.

But a victory for the conservative coalition would confer increased legitimacy on Mr. Chirac at a time when he has failed to reverse his deep unpopularity.

An influential Gaullist deputy, Pierre Mazeaud, who held a meeting with Mr. Chirac on Wednesday, said Thursday that early elections "are indeed among the solutions that are currently being considered" by the president.

Mr. Mazeaud, who heads the Parliament's legislative committee, said he was personally opposed to early elections, but acknowledged that Mr. Chirac, who began his seven-year term in 1995, needed to find his "second wind."

"From October, we shall enter into a new



Mr. Chirac at a meeting Thursday in the presidential Elysee Palace in Paris.

situation in French politics as far as the debate on Europe is concerned," Mr. Mazeaud said. "I fully understand that the president is thinking in terms of the difficult months to come when the euro is adopted."

One senior minister said Wednesday that French leaders were considering possibilities of either early elections or a reshuffle.

"The president and the prime minister are mulling things over," said Education Minister Francois Bayrou. "Leave them to think things through. I am certain that very quickly we will see what comes out of their reflection."

Francois Hollande, spokesman for the opposition Socialist Party, said Thursday that the speculation about snap elections or a reshuffle was "a formidable admission of failure," adding that the government had reached "a financial and political dead end."

Philippe de Villiers, a maverick opposed to the single currency, said early elections would be "a maneuver aimed at avoiding debate on the essential choices."

"By avoiding debate on Europe, the president of the republic would quietly sacrifice France to Maastricht," he said.

## Belgians Study Troop Atrocities

**BRUSSELS** — Military training is under review in wake of new evidence that Belgian paratroopers committed atrocities against Somali civilians during a 1993 UN peace mission, the armed forces chief said Thursday.

Defense Minister Jean-Pol Poncelet said he was considering disbanding the paratroop unit at the center of the scandal, which came to light after a newspaper published photographs of the atrocities, including one of a paratrooper urinating on a dead Somali.

Admiral Willy Herteleer, the chief of staff, said Thursday that military training was being reviewed to "see whether we don't go too far in creating Ramboes who may have shored their values aside in an unacceptable manner."

The cases came to light when a former paratrooper spoke out anonymously and offered photographs to a newspaper earlier this month. More pictures were published Wednesday from a second anonymous witness.

## Albanians Set June 29 Election

**TIRANA** — Albania's political parties have agreed to hold general elections June 29, the international mediator to Albania, Franz Vranitzky, said Thursday.

Mr. Vranitzky, in Tirana for talks with politicians and officials, said that the date had been agreed on by all concerned, but the conditions for the vote had not.

President Sali Berisha reluctantly agreed in March to hold new elections as a concession to rebels in the south who seized control of a string of towns and are still demanding his resignation.

The Balkan republic last went to the polls in May 1996 in

what many regarded as a flawed election, in which Mr. Berisha's Democratic Party won 122 of the 140 available seats with just over half the vote.

## Swiss Plan Foundation Details

**ZURICH** — The Swiss government will unveil this year a detailed plan for its proposed 7 billion Swiss franc (\$4.76 billion) foundation that would use gold sales to finance humanitarian projects, the Finance Ministry said Thursday. The ministry said it would present the cabinet by autumn the concept for the foundation's activities.

The Swiss Foundation for Solidarity, to be financed by selling off national gold reserves, was proposed by the government last month in a bid to restore Switzerland's humanitarian image following the flood of accusations that the neutral country was Nazi Germany's wartime banker and is still holding assets of Holocaust victims.

## 7 Muslims on Trial in Bosnia

**ZVORNIK**, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Seven Muslims detained by U.S. troops last year and handed over to Bosnian Serb police went on trial Thursday, four of them on murder charges. The court denied them their choice of lawyers and appointed its own.

The seven say they escaped a massacre in the town of Srebrenica after it was captured by Bosnian Serbs in July 1995. They say they survived in the wild until they spotted the U.S. soldiers in May 1996 in eastern Bosnia, and surrendered. Officials of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization-led peacekeeping force were skeptical of the men's account at the time.

## Russia Pursues New Bond With China

Agence France-Presse

**MOSCOW** — A year after announcing a "strategic partnership for the 21st century," the leaders of Russia and China will sign a key border agreement here next week and discuss ambitious joint projects, as Moscow seeks to forge new bonds with its eastern neighbors.

Russian foreign policy has undergone an eastward shift since the former superpower, Yevgeni Primakov, an eastern expert, was appointed foreign minister in January 1996.

But while it may consolidate the new rapprochement, the visit of the Chinese president, Jiang Zemin, from

Tuesday through April 26 does not herald an alliance to counteract the power of the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Russian analysts said.

Mr. Jiang is scheduled to sign an agreement reducing troop deployments along China's border with Russia and the former Soviet states of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in Central Asia.

Mr. Jiang and President Boris Yeltsin are also due to sign a joint political declaration on the "multipolar world," setting out their views on the optimum global conditions for their development.

"Russia is looking for strong new partners to maintain a balance of powers in the world," said Irina Kobrenskaya, a political analyst at the Moscow branch of the Carnegie Endowment, an international think tank.

The Chinese-Russian rapprochement "is not just a response to NATO expansion," she said. "Russia is refocusing its foreign policy on Asia to have room for maneuver."

Leonid Moiseyev, deputy head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's First Asia Department, said the improvement in Chinese-Russian ties began with President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Beijing in May 1989, "when NATO expansion was not yet an issue."

He said three major obstacles blocking a normalization of ties had now been largely removed: rivalry over Vietnam and Cambodia, a dispute over border demarcation and a massive concentration of military forces along China's 8,000-kilometer (5,000-mile) border with the former Soviet Union.

"Final border demarcation may be completed this year," Mr. Moiseyev said. "At any rate, 80 to 90 percent of the work will definitely be completed."

Russia has become China's biggest arms supplier since the two former rivals for leadership of the Communist world officially patched up their ideological rift in 1989.

Russia has signed contracts to supply China with 72 Su-27 fighter planes, the S-300 anti-aircraft missile system and two destroyers equipped with missile launchers.

Mr. Moiseyev recalled that the Soviet Union built up China's armed forces in the 1950s, and Moscow and Beijing had a long history of military cooperation.

## To Turks Opposing a Mine, Gold Means Poison

By Stephen Kinzer  
New York Times Service

**BERGAMA, Turkey** — Built by the ancient Greeks, conquered by Alexander the Great and denounced by St. John as "the devil's throne" because of the number of early Christians tortured here, this town has been the scene of battles and confrontations for more than 3,000 years.

Outsiders have once again cast their eyes upon Bergama, known to the Romans as Pergamum. This time they are not interested in its political, religious or strategic importance, but in the wealth that they have found beneath its soil. Bergama's latest blessing, or curse, is gold.

"In 1989 a gentleman came to me and told me there was gold in our earth," Mayor Sefa Taskin recalled. "I was very happy. I supposed that maybe we would become rich. But then I told him that we had not seen any gold, and I gently asked him where it was and how he was going to get it. He started to mention cyanide. That was when we began to have doubts."

Those doubts have grown, and Mr. Taskin is now leading an international campaign against efforts by a French-based company, Eurogold, to open Turkey's first modern gold mine here. He has rallied many villagers to his side, warning that the mine poses grave environmental dangers while offering little or no benefit.

Eurogold officials say he is wildly exaggerating the risks and, by doing so, endangering a potentially lucrative industry. They have identified a broad band of Turkish territory stretching from the Aegean to the Black Sea that they believe may be rich with gold, and want to begin their

digging here, where geologists say subterranean veins hold more than three tons of gold.

In Turkey, where environmental consciousness is still relatively low, the Bergama conflict has attracted national attention. It is novel not only because environmentalists are challenging a foreign company backed by



the state, but also because they have managed to mobilize a number of poor Anatolian villagers, people who have historically been thought of as obedient and even docile.

The mine site is 13 kilometers (8 miles) southwest of Bergama, just out of sight of the commanding hills on which stately marble columns stand as testament to the great civilization that once flourished here. Work began five months ago when 2,500 trees were cut down.

More than 200 technicians and laborers are now digging a mine pit, boring a wide underground passage and excavating a pool that will be used to store and detoxify the cyanide-based solution that is used to

separate the gold from other minerals. Mining is set to begin in November.

"I don't say I'm sure," said Jack Testard, managing director of Eurogold. "But why not? We have every permit signed."

But in the shabby café in Ovacik, the village closest to the mine, patrons competed with one another in vivid promises to prevent the mine from opening.

"Until we die we'll be against it," said Minur Aldar, a retired cotton farmer. "We won't let it happen."

Mr. Aldar is old enough to remember that in 1938, Ovacik moved here from a spot several miles away after the original village was destroyed in an earthquake. This part of Turkey is geologically unstable, and the possibility of an earthquake that might rupture the clay-and-polyethylene sealer beneath the waste pool is among people's fears.

They also fear that cyanide will seep through the sealer even without an earthquake, that blasting will damage their homes and that the large amounts of water necessary for the mining process will dry up the water table and leave their crops parched.

"Maybe this project could be successful in northern Canada or in Brazil or the African desert," Mr. Taskin said.

"But here we have 300,000 people living around the mine. We don't want this risk. Eurogold will use our air and water, get our gold, and when they leave after eight years we will be stuck with the poison."

"I have told them, 'The people don't want you, so you should go quietly.' They don't want to hear us," he said. "Maybe they can open the mine with 20,000 soldiers and 100

tanks, but is that really what they want?"

The engineer overseeing the mine project here, Chris Power, a 39-year-old Scot, views the mayor as a propagandist whose main interest is promoting his political career by playing on the fears of uneducated villagers.

He insists that the mine will operate safely and that after it is closed, the site will be returned to its natural state.

"But people have cyanide on the mind and that's all they can hear," he said.

"Cyanide is basically the universal chemical for the extraction of gold. Apart from not being here at all, there is nothing more we can do to make it cleaner or better."

He said the mine might actually increase the town's attractiveness. "There's an allure to mines," he said. "Why not advertise? We've got ruins that are thousands of years old and we've got Turkey's first gold mine. Come and see the gold mine."

Mr. Power has resisted suggestions from government agencies that he hire armed guards to protect the mine, reasoning that such a move might encourage hotheaded opponents of the project to find guns and "send the whole situation out of control."

Mr. Taskin and his allies are counting on a worldwide publicity campaign to prevent the mine from opening. They have enlisted German politicians and environmental groups — a German company is to supply the cyanide — as well as members of the European Parliament, British anti-mining campaigners and even drama professors who worry about possible damage to Bergama's ancient theaters.

## CIRCULATION SALES DIRECTOR SWITZERLAND

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## INTERNATIONAL

# A Defiant Netanyahu Says He Won't Resign

All Await State Prosecutor's Decision On Whether to Indict Him for Fraud

By Serge Schmemmann  
New York Times Service

JERUSALEM—Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu went on the counteroffensive Thursday against police recommendations that he be indicted for breach of public trust, defiantly vowing at a gathering of political allies that "this government is not going anywhere."

After his initial shock at the revelation that he had been named in the police report — which Mr. Netanyahu first learned, according to an aide, from the evening television news program Wednesday — the prime minister rallied his senior assistants and ordered a full counterattack.

In a speech to Likud party loyalists, originally scheduled as a Passover toast, Mr. Netanyahu made no reference to the accusations against him, but drew instead on his trademark skill before microphones to cast himself as the maligned victim of political intrigue.

"The truth will win! The truth will be victorious!" Mr. Netanyahu thundered. "I came here today to tell you we will continue to lead the state of Israel until the year 2000, and even beyond 2000!"

The blow that fell on Mr. Netanyahu was the disclosure that police officers had concluded a 12-week investigation into accusations of impropriety in the appointment of an attorney general with the recommendation that state prosecutors bring charges against the prime minister and three other senior politicians, including two members of his government.

The basic accusation is that the head of a major party in Mr. Netanyahu's coalition, Aryeh Deri of the Orthodox Shas party, pushed for the appointment of a lawyer named Roni Bar-On as attorney general for his own ends, evidently stemming from Mr. Deri's corruption trial. Mr. Netanyahu named Mr. Bar-On, but his lack of qualifications roused a storm of protest, and he resigned after a day.

The current attorney general, Elyakim Rubinstein, a respected former judge and civil servant, and the state attorney, Edna Arbel, spent the day poring over the 995-page police report. They said they would announce whether they intended to issue any indictments before Passover, which probably meant by Monday.

In the meantime, the initial shock of

the revelation that Mr. Netanyahu had been implicated by the police — something that no one had expected — was followed by widespread questioning of the seriousness of the charges. Senior police officers confirmed that the recommendations to charge Mr. Netanyahu were qualified, and that they were based on the testimony of only one witness, albeit a central one.

In his cover letter to the state prosecutors, which was made public Thursday, Sando Mazar, the head of the investigative unit, wrote, "We are aware of the problems of indicting in such a sensitive and complex affair while relying on one central witness who might be viewed or presented by the defense as unreliable or even as having vested interest, but we believe, following a deep acquaintance with this witness, that his testimony is reliable, at least as far as testing it in court."

Mr. Mazar did not name the witness, but there was a general agreement that he was probably Dan Avi-Yitzhak, Mr. Deri's former defense lawyer in his corruption trial, who is also widely considered the source of the original leak about Mr. Bar-On's appointment.

The affair preoccupied Israel's government just as a U.S. envoy, Dennis Ross, arrived to try to restart the Middle East peace negotiations that have been frozen since mid-March.

No progress was expected on the peace front until a decision was made on whether to prosecute Mr. Netanyahu, which could determine if new elections are called.

"Until the situation is resolved, the peace process certainly isn't going to go anywhere," said Hanan Ashrawi, a member of the Palestinian cabinet.

The Labor Party's leader, Shimon Peres, had been pushing for a joint Likud-Labor government to negotiate with the Arabs. But Labor officials now say plans to form a "peace coalition" cannot progress while the government is under threat of criminal charges.

## Circumspect in Washington

The White House refrained Thursday from commenting on Mr. Netanyahu's legal woes, calling the Israeli political crisis "a domestic legal matter." The Associated Press reported Thursday.

The White House press secretary, Michael McCurry, told reporters, "We consider that a domestic legal matter that the Israeli government and the people of Israel have to resolve."



Mr. Netanyahu telling supporters on Thursday, "This government is not going anywhere."

## MINES: U.S. Companies Make Deals in Rebel Zaire

Continued from Page 1

for the liberation of the Congo (Zaire), 49 percent.

A subsidiary of the firm, America Diamond Buyers, was the first foreign company to sign a commercial contract with the rebels and already has done hundreds of thousands of dollars in business since it set up two weeks ago.

When Marshal Mobutu controlled all of Zaire, and its cobalt, copper, diamond and gold deposits, American companies were at a disadvantage because the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act forbids them from paying bribes to state officials. In Marshal Mobutu's Zaire, bribes were a prerequisite to doing business. European countries have no such laws.

American businessmen in Africa, however, concede that they have paid "fees and taxes" both to corrupt government officials in Zaire and to less-than-honest rebel leaders in other countries, such as Liberia, who used the money to finance their war efforts. But Joseph Martin of America Diamond Buyers said that Mr. Kabila's alliance is taking a stand against the kind of corruption that kept resource-rich African countries in poverty while leaders lined their pockets.

"We are told by the rebel al-

liance, that if anybody does ask for a bribe, we are told to turn them in and they won't be allowed to work for the alliance any more, and I find it a breath of fresh air for Zaire," Mr. Martin said in an interview in the northern city of Kisangani.

When America Diamond Buyers opened its office, Zairians broke windows and nearly broke down walls in their eagerness to sell diamonds to the Americans, said Mr. Martin. Young men walk around Kisangani, Zaire's third-largest city, wearing T-shirts printed with the company's logo. Late last year, as the rebels made advances toward Zaire's mineral-production regions, they called on anyone involved in mining to step forward.

"Nobody did immediately, because they didn't want to be fighting with the rebels. But we saw that they were doing the right thing," Mr. Martin said. "Now every mining company in the world is chasing us in here."

Miners are not the only ones seeking profits in rebel-held Zaire. New Millennium Investment Ltd., based in Washington, has entered a joint venture with the alliance to open the first bank here in Goma, the de facto rebel capital. The company owns 60 percent of the Development Bank

of Goma, and the remaining 40 belongs to the rebels — nearly all of which is tied up in the bank's real estate.

New Millennium also has signed on to revitalize Goma's telecommunications. In addition, businessmen here say Comsat, based in Bethesda, Maryland, has signed an agreement to sell satellite telephone equipment in Goma. Comsat did not respond to requests for comment on the reported deal.

Why Americans, along with Canadian and South African firms, appear to have the jump on European companies is not clear, but Westerners here say it likely has something to do with the rebel alliance's finance commissioner, Mwasa Nanga Mawanga. He was educated in Kentucky and spent enough time in the United States to make extensive business contacts.

"Everybody is going to profit from these agreements," Mr. Mawanga said Thursday in Lubumbashi, the Reuters news agency reported. "Above all, investment must profit the people of this country and especially those in the region where resources are developed." Cash would also help pay for the war to topple Marshal Mobutu, "which is our No. 1 priority," he added.

# Chaim Herzog, 78, Former President Of Israel, Is Dead

By Eric Pace  
New York Times Service

Chaim Herzog, 78, Israel's outspoken, sometimes controversial president from 1983 to 1993, who was a former diplomat and general, died Thursday.

Mr. Herzog suffered heart failure after contracting pneumonia during a recent visit to the United States, said Rachel Sofer, spokeswoman of Tel Hashomer Hospital in Tel Aviv.

Mr. Herzog was his country's chief delegate to the United Nations from 1975 to 1978 after serving as its director of military intelligence and, in 1967, as the first military governor of the occupied West Bank. Over the years he was also a businessman, a lawyer, an author and a Labor Party member of the Israeli Parliament.

In his two successive five-year terms as Israel's sixth chief of state, he strove to enlarge the president's role, which in Israel is largely ceremonial, by making public declarations on issues that leaders in government would not, or could not, discuss.

By late 1987, as his first term was drawing to a close and while a national unity government was in power, he had probably become more influential and popular than any previous Israeli president.

His urbane, outgoing nature and his earlier roles in his country's life fitted him to serve as a symbol of Israeli unity during his years as president. A descendant of rabbis and a witness of Nazi concentration-camp horrors while he was an officer in the British Army in World War II, he was steeped in the splendors and sorrows of Jewish history. He was also cosmopolitan, with the trace of a brogue from his native Belfast, in Northern Ireland, and an education gained largely in Britain.

As the chief delegate to the United Nations, Mr. Herzog led Israel's defense against Arab attempts to oust it. In 1975, when the General As-

sembly passed a resolution equating Zionism with racism, he went to the rostrum and defiantly tore a copy of the resolution in two. Seven years later, the assembly repealed the resolution.

Mr. Herzog was in the Israeli Defense Force at his country's birth in 1948, rose to the rank of major general and served twice as director of military intelligence, from 1948 to 1950 and from 1959 to 1962. He then retired, only to return as the West Bank's military governor just after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Mr. Herzog was first elected president by the Israeli Parliament, the Knesset, in 1983, in a rebuff to Prime Minister Menachem Begin's governing coalition of that day.

In 1988, Mr. Herzog was elected by the Knesset to a second term, the maximum permitted by Israeli law.

He was succeeded on May 13, 1993, by Ezer Weizman.

## Emilio Azcarraga, 66, Mexican Media Chief

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Emilio Azcarraga Milmo, 66, one of the world's major media tycoons and a fervent supporter of Mexico's long-ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, died Wednesday after a long illness.

An announcement by the giant Televisa chain, which he headed for decades, said Mr. Azcarraga died in Miami, but did not give details. He left Mexico in March to be hospitalized in Los Angeles. Mr. Azcarraga looked tired when he went on the air last month to announce his retirement as president and chairman of Grupo Televisa SA, which produces the most Spanish-language television programming in the world. He said it was time for a younger generation to take over a \$1.45 billion media empire that he built up from a string of radio stations inherited from his father, Emilio Azcarraga Vidaurreta. Televisa is also a major player in publishing, radio, music recording, cable and satellite broadcasts.

## GINGRICH: Dole Lends Speaker Funds for Fine

Continued from Page 1

and hours discussing these options," Mr. Gingrich said Thursday, as she looked on from the gallery. He drew standing applause from Republicans in the chamber when he added, "I have never been prouder of Marianne than over the last few months."

But if his announcement helps Mr. Gingrich among fellow Republicans, Democrats immediately attacked it. Representative David Bonior of Michigan, the minority whip, reeled off a series of questions. "Is this a sweetheart deal for Newt Gingrich," he asked, "or could any American get such a deal? Is this just another example of business as usual?"

Like other Democrats, he suggested there could be a violation of Congress's prohibition on gifts and gratuities. He and others noted that Mr. Dole recently had taken a position with a law firm that lobbies Congress, which Mr. Bonior called a potential conflict of interest. Mr. Dole is not, however, registered as a lobbyist with the firm.

Mr. Dole can afford the loan: He will earn more than \$600,000 a year from his new position at the Washington law firm, and he made more than \$500,000 just for a credit-card deal during professional football's Super Bowl game. He also receives several pensions, and he and his wife, Elizabeth, have assets of about \$4 million.

The involvement of Mr. Dole, who has had a sometimes turbulent relationship with Mr. Gingrich, was a surprise. But analysts said there was concern among Republicans that if Mr. Gingrich's troubles ended up costing him his job, there was no strong candidate to replace him.

Mr. Dole said in a statement, "I consider this not only an opportunity to support a friend but a long-term investment in the future of our party." He is providing an eight-year loan with simple interest of 10 percent on an annual basis. Mr. Gingrich's office said this was comparable to commercially available terms. But it allows the entire principal and interest to be paid at the very end.

## BRAIN: Hearing Words Helps Babies Develop

Continued from Page 1

of both nature and nurture. Before birth, it appears that genes predominantly direct how the brain establishes basic wiring patterns. Neurons grow and travel into distinct neighborhoods.

After birth, it seems that environmental factors predominate. The inflowing stream of sights, sounds, smells, touches — and most importantly, language and eye contact — literally makes the brain take shape. It is a radical and shocking concept.

Experience in the first year of life lays the basis for networks of neurons that enable us to be smart, creative and adaptable in all the years that follow, said Esther Thelen, a

neurobiologist at Indiana University in Bloomington.

In later life, what make us smart and creative and adaptable are networks of neurons which support our ability to use abstractions from one memory to help form new ideas and solve problems, said Charles Stevens, a neurobiologist at the Salk Institute in La Jolla, California.

Smarter people may have a greater number of neural networks that are more intricately woven together, a process that starts in the first year.

Constant patter may be the single most important factor in early brain development, according to Betty Hart, a professor emerita of human development at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. With her

colleague, Todd Ridley of the University of Alaska, Ms. Hart recently studied 42 children born to professional, working-class or welfare parents.

During the first two and half years of the children's lives, the scientists spent an hour a month recording every spoken word and every parent-child interaction.

At age 3, the children were given standard tests. The children of professional parents scored highest. Spoken language was the key variable, Ms. Hart said.

A child with professional parents heard, on average, 2,100 words an hour. Children of working-class parents heard 1,200 words and those with parents on welfare heard only 600 words an hour.

## BRIEFLY

### Greece Recalls Envoy to Iran

ATHENS — Greece has recalled its ambassador to Iran for "consultations," a Greek government spokesman said Thursday. But the spokesman, Dimitris Reppas, added that Athens maintained good relations with Tehran.

Greece was the only European Union country that did not recall its ambassador after a German court last week implicated Tehran in the assassination of political opponents in Berlin in 1992.

A Greek official played down the significance of the recall. (AFP)

### Iraq Hails UN Reaction to Flight

BAGHDAD — Iraq on Thursday welcomed a United Nations Security Council statement that stopped short of calling a recent Iraqi flight to Saudi Arabia a violation of Gulf War sanctions.

Baghdad newspapers, which carried the statement made Wednesday on their front pages, also issued remarks by a Foreign Ministry official reiterating Iraq's right to send civilian planes beyond its borders. (Reuters)

### Mexican Army Major Arrested

MEXICO CITY — Mexican authorities have arrested an army major who they say alerted the country's most powerful drug kingpin to an operation designed to seize him in January, allowing him to escape.

The army major, who was not identified by name, is the third military officer in recent weeks to be formally accused of protecting notorious drug lords. Military officials said Tuesday that the officer received \$200,000 and a car as payment for the tip-off to the drug lord, Carrillo Fuentes, according to local media accounts. (WP)

### Taliban Plans to Destroy Art

GHORBAND VALLEY, Afghanistan — Afghanistan's Taliban rulers say they will destroy the 2,000-year-old Buddhist statues in central Bamyan Province if they manage to capture the province from their Shiite enemies.

The minority Shiite Mualims, led by Karim Khalili, control Bamyan Province and the historic treasures, but the Taliban is nipping at their heels in nearby Ghorband Valley.

"These statues are not Islamic and we will have to destroy them," the Taliban's top frontline commander, Mullah Abdul Wahed, said Wednesday. (AP)

## EDITOR: Of What, Exactly?

Continued from Page 1

appointment of Mr. Feng could be more innocent than invidious. "It is just possible that the guy really is genuine," the editor said, "that he's an old guy and being given a retirement job."

Mr. Feng, 76, comes from a well-off Shanghai family and is the son of a silk manufacturer. Purged during the Cultural Revolution of 1966 to 1976, he was rehabilitated to found China's first official English-language newspaper, The China Daily.

He could not be reached to

comment about his role at the paper. But Mr. Fenby said Mr. Feng would not be encroaching on his editorial prerogatives.

"I wasn't really involved in the beginning of the process," Mr. Fenby said. "I picked it up somewhere down the track. But what I didn't have was sufficiently political antennae to see that his office is directly across from mine and people would say he is watching me."

"You've had people say he's going to be a censor, a commissar. As far as I'm concerned, I'm the editor."

## And What About Collateral? This Is Better Than the Bank

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Newt Gingrich, in borrowing \$300,000 from Bob Dole, got a deal better than most individuals could get from a bank — unless they could put up equity in a house as collateral.

The eight-year loan bears interest at a current rate of 10 percent, but it appears to be adjustable, at 1.5 percentage points over the prime rate, now 8.5 percent. Mr. Gingrich does not have to put up collateral and does not have to pay anything for eight years, but in that case, interest would continue to mount.

Home equity lines of credit are available in the United States for an average of 8.4 percent, although that is a teaser rate that typically rises to prime plus 1.5 percent — the Gingrich rate — after six or nine months, said Bob Heady, the publisher of Bank Rate Monitor, a newsletter based in Florida. Such loans typically require monthly interest payments but no principal payments for many years.

Without collateral, rates are generally much higher for individuals. The average bank rate for unsecured loans is 15.2 percent, he said, while the average credit card rate is 17 percent. Those loans do not, however, normally involve this much money.

## LOOT: Russians Ponder Fate of Wartime Spoils

Continued from Page 1

seized government archives, paintings, books and other works of art throughout occupied Europe. The Soviet Union brought much of the treasure home at the end of the war, justifying the seizure as a form of war reparations.

For decades Russia's possession of much of the cache was a close secret. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia became more open about its collection.

That did not mean that Russia was prepared to return the

treasure. Some of Russia's finest museums are still brimming with the looted art.

The Pushkin State Museum in Moscow has proudly displayed objects known as Priam's Treasure from the site of ancient Troy. Recovered by Heinrich Schliemann in 1873, the collection was stored in the Prussian State Museum before the war.

The Pushkin and the Hermitage in St. Petersburg are rich in trophy art. Indeed, the list of captured paintings amounts to a who's who of Old Masters. Impressionists

and other great Western artists.

At the Center for the Preservation of Historical-Documentary Collections, Mr. Mukhamedzhanov tends a collection that includes looted government archives from Western and Eastern European countries.

Through the Soviet period, the collection was accessible only to the KGB and other security forces. But now the archive is open to foreign scholars, and it relies on proceeds from microfilming to help stay afloat.

NATO, likely to be initially Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

Those three countries are expected to be invited to join the alliance at a NATO summit meeting in Madrid in July.

"We want to announce that on the 27th of May in Paris, the agreement will be signed by the leaders of the NATO countries and of Russia. So we need to make haste," Mr. Yeltsin declared.

The remarks seemed designed to counter growing speculation that the signing would be postponed because of deep differences that have emerged this week in negotiations between Javier Solana, the NATO secretary-general, and the Russian foreign minister, Yevgeni Primakov. Mr. Solana himself said Wednesday the negotiations might not be concluded by May 27.

Neither Mr. Yeltsin nor Mr. Kohl offered any clue as to the basis of their apparent optimism. Mr. Kohl said the document to be signed in Paris was 90 percent complete, but needed urgent work. The agreement is supposed to set the ground rules for the future security relationship between NATO and Russia, which is worried that an expanded NATO will bring a potentially threatening force to its very frontiers.

Up to now, Russian negotiators have insisted that NATO commit itself in the

proposed charter not to station nuclear weapons on the soil of its new members or deploy conventional forces there. Neither does Moscow want NATO to upgrade military infrastructure like airfields and radar or transfer conventional weapons to its new members.

A senior German official said the negotiations were "in the middle of the endgame" and that a principle sticking point lay in Russia's objection to NATO building up military infrastructure in Eastern Europe so as to maintain flexibility in the event of a crisis.

While NATO says it has no intention of stationing nuclear weapons or large numbers of Western soldiers in the former Warsaw Pact countries, it insists that its new members have the same rights as the 16 existing members.

Those include protection under a stipulation that an attack on one NATO country is to be viewed by the alliance as an attack on all of them. In separate negotiations in Vienna, NATO has made an offer designed to convince the Russians that it does not plan a big military buildup on Russia's borders.

Mr. Yeltsin's remarks Thursday contrasted markedly with an assessment by his spokesman that the eastward expansion of NATO represented the alliance's "biggest mistake since the Cold War" — a view reflecting intense hostility toward NATO's eastward expansion

among the Russian military establishment and within the Communist-controlled lower house of Parliament.

Part of the apparent shift, German officials said, related to Mr. Kohl's offer that, while he would not act as Russia's "interpreter" in the West, he and other German officials would "be helpful" in meeting Russian concerns.

The 66-year-old Mr. Yeltsin, who underwent heart bypass surgery last year, looked stiff, pale and tired at the news conference, staring fixedly ahead as the German chancellor spoke. Mr. Kohl repeatedly referred to him as "dear Boris," seeking to underscore what he depicts as a close personal relationship after many summit meetings.

This latest encounter was held in Germany's premier spa town, a verdant settlement of luxurious hotels, thermal baths, clinics, a famed casino and restaurants once regarded as the summer playground of Europe's 19th-century aristocracy.

The negotiations on NATO's eastward expansion seemed to advance last February at a summit meeting between Mr. Yeltsin and President Bill Clinton in Helsinki.

Since then, Mr. Primakov has visited Paris, where he and President Jacques Chirac set the May 27 date for a gathering of 16 NATO leaders and Mr. Yeltsin to coincide with a prearranged visit by Mr. Clinton.

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# Herald Tribune

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## Balance on China

Is the Clinton administration restoring some balance to its China policy in the wake of a diplomatic defeat in Geneva this week? A few signs give reason to hope for a modest shift. The most important is President Bill Clinton's decision to meet with Hong Kong democrat Martin Lee this Friday.

Mr. Lee, chairman of Hong Kong's top vote-getting political party, is a member of the elected legislature, which China plans to abolish as soon as it takes over Hong Kong on July 1. He has tirelessly pressed China to keep its promise to respect the rule of law in Hong Kong, currently a British colony.

China already has thrown that promise in doubt, announcing plans to roll back the freedom of assembly and other basic liberties. By meeting with Mr. Lee, the president sends a strong signal that Hong Kong's freedoms matter to the United States.

Mr. Clinton's decision to see Mr. Lee comes as China basks in a victory at the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, which voted on Tuesday to not even consider a mildly worded resolution urging improvement in China's human rights record. That record is abysmal: thousands are imprisoned for their political views or religious beliefs. But the United States, hoping for even symbolic promises of improvement from China, failed to lead an effort on behalf of the resolution. By the time it became clear that no improvement would be forth-

coming, China had succeeded in splintering a pro-human rights coalition.

That omission, along with Vice President Al Gore's decision to skip Hong Kong during his recent China visit, has provoked congressional criticism to the point that extension of China's most-favored-nation trading status, once thought a sure thing, is now in doubt. Such political considerations may have played a role in President Clinton's decision, so, perhaps, did his desire to meet with Tung Chee-hwa, China's handpicked Hong Kong leader, if Mr. Tung visits Washington later this spring.

But with the lack of results of its policy of forbearance leading up to Geneva, the administration also may be recalculating the importance of standing up for principle. That does not mean abandoning a policy of engagement or swerving toward "containment"; it just means not being afraid to speak up for human rights and other matters of U.S. national interest.

A good chance to put such a balanced policy into play comes in June at the annual meeting of the Group of Seven leading industrialized democracies. As host, the United States has a good chance to promote a unified policy and statement on the importance to the West of democracy in Hong Kong—especially if it learns from the Geneva disappointment and begins laying the groundwork now.

—THE WASHINGTON POST

## A Crisis in Israel

Israel, already shaken by a breakdown of the Mideast peace effort, now faces a political crisis. A long-awaited report by Israel's national police has recommended to prosecutors that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu be indicted for fraud and breach of trust in a political appointments scandal. This is a recommendation only, one that prosecutors may ultimately reject. The report also recommends charges against Netanyahu's allies.

Mr. Netanyahu denies the charges and should at this point be presumed innocent. If he is actually indicted, he would be entitled to the due process of law, however long that may take. Yet the political impact of the investigation can no longer be easily contained.

Already, news of the police report has ended talk of the opposition Labor Party entering a coalition cabinet to revitalize the Oslo peace agreements.

Several members of the cabinet have threatened to withdraw their support from Mr. Netanyahu if he is indicted. That could force new national elections less than a year after he and his conservative coalition took office.

The issues underlying this scandal bear on one of the most important safeguards of democracy and the rule of law—assurance that the impartial administration of justice is not deflected by political considerations.

Details of the police report are secret. But Mr. Netanyahu and key political aides are suspected of having chosen Roni Bar-On to serve as attorney general earlier this year to influence and possibly quash corruption cases pending against a key Netanyahu ally, Mr. Bar-On resigned after two days in office.

The political crisis can only complicate attempts to rescue the troubled peace with the Palestinians, which is nearer collapse now than at any time since the Oslo agreements were signed nearly four years ago. The necessary decisions for peace can be made only by an Israeli government whose own legitimacy remains above doubt. For the good of Israel and in the interests of peace, the questions raised by the criminal investigation need to be resolved as quickly and fairly as possible.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

## Big Tobacco Gives In

Big tobacco is desperate for peace. The revelation that Philip Morris and RJR Nabisco are holding secret settlement talks with tobacco plaintiffs marks a momentous development in the struggle to curb America's smoking addiction. There could be no more promising sign that the tobacco barons have finally abandoned their galling hubris and are scrambling to cut the best deal possible before the combined weight of legal, regulatory and public pressures beats them into submission.

As described in Wednesday's Wall Street Journal, which broke news of the talks, the industry hopes to shelter itself from legal liability for the health damage caused by smoking. In exchange the industry would make an enormous payment to a smokers' compensation fund, perhaps as much as \$300 billion over 25 years, and would accept federal regulation and strict limits on advertising.

The mere discussion of such concessions is a measure of the industry's collapsing position. The fact that the chairmen of both companies attended the opening session, and that a key White House aide is monitoring the proceedings, is proof that this is more than a sparring match.

In retrospect, it is easy to pick out key turning points that have forced the industry to abandon its intransigence. Defectors from the industry released incriminating documents that made it difficult to ignore decades of duplicity and increased the likelihood that some plaintiff somewhere would finally win a big verdict, with huge punitive damages attached. The Food and Drug Administration began to move against to-

bacco, bringing a looming threat of regulation. Then the industry created a public relations disaster that its worst enemies could not have devised, when a solemn assemblage of its top executives swore to Congress that they did not believe tobacco was addictive. That ludicrous testimony earned the ridicule it deserved and convinced the public that these businesses respected neither facts nor fairness.

The legal and political scales, long weighted in favor of cigarette makers, began to tip the other way when the attorneys general of 22 states filed suit to recover the health costs of smoking. Liggett, the industry's smallest company, settled out of court and released yet more incriminating documents. When Liggett acknowledged that the industry had long sought to target teenagers so as to lure them into a lifetime smoking habit, the industry's moral position had become indefensible.

Also, it faced the risk of losing court cases and big financial judgments. The final shape of any settlement is still not clear. Negotiators are said to be far apart on some key issues, including the sum to be paid by the industry, the extent to which the industry will be sheltered from liability suits, and the degree of regulation it will agree to endure. But the startling, heartening development is that the tobacco companies have now moved from the bunker to the surrender table. The anti-smoking forces have been relentless, even when the odds were against them. Now the corporate arrogance and tactical blunders of big tobacco have put victory within the crusaders' grasp.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

# Japan Needs Bold Reform to Stay Competitive

By Shoichiro Toyoda

TOKYO — Japan finds itself at a crossroads. After World War II, our country devoted itself to catching up with the West. But the social and economic systems that enabled success in that endeavor are now obsolete, incapable of coping with the competition we face internationally and the rapid aging of our population at home.

These changes require us to reform our existing systems drastically.

According to current projections, by 2025, 27.4 percent of Japan's population will be aged 65 or older, compared with 18.1 percent of the American population. Meanwhile, we have the most serious budget deficit of any major industrial nation. Last year the combined national and local government deficit came to 7 percent of GDP, almost triple the U.S. figure of 2.5 percent.

In the private sector, Japanese businesses continue to invest huge amounts of money overseas, but only a relative trickle of foreign money is being invested in Japan. In 1995, \$50.7 billion was invested abroad, while just \$3 billion was invested in Japan—a reflection of our country's overregulation and heavy corporate taxes. If this trend continues, our domestic economy may be reduced to a mere shell before long.

Japan must shift from an economy burdened by regulations and bureaucracy to one in which the private sector

can operate unfettered. We must also downsize the public sector and create a small, efficient government. If these goals are accomplished, I believe the Japanese economy is capable of sustaining growth at an annual rate averaging around 3 percent.

To make this vision come true, bold reforms must be carried out. Above all, deregulation holds the key to success.

First, it would lower the high cost of doing business in Japan by promoting

**American experience shows deregulation to be well worth it.**

competition and removing obstacles to imports. Second, it would check the erosion of the industrial base and create new jobs at home by opening up new frontiers for business and encouraging vigorous investment.

The benefits are already apparent in areas like telecommunications and petroleum products, where the old rules have been relaxed in the form of lower rates and prices. The easing of restric-

tions on large stores has led to the establishment of many new outlets by foreign and domestic retailers.

As estimated by Japan's Economic Planning Agency, the deregulation steps taken so far have produced an average of 7.9 trillion yen (\$66 billion) a year in additional demand, creating up to 1.3 million new jobs.

Deregulation is bound to be painful for some industries that have benefited from the present system. But it is essential for us in the business world to put aside narrow interests and commit ourselves wholeheartedly to reform. And we must act fast.

Our success or failure in deregulation depends largely on what we can accomplish this year. We should take encouragement from the American experience that shows deregulation to be tough but well worth it for the economic vitality it unleashes.

As a concomitant to deregulation, corporations must learn to behave with an even stronger sense of ethics and of responsibility for their own actions. The recent string of business scandals involving price fixing and currency trading has given us cause for serious soul-searching and for taking steps to prevent any recurrences.

Last November, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto announced his unwavering determination to carry out

reform in six areas: public administration, public finances, economic structure, financial systems, social security and education. The Administrative Reform Council, an advisory panel to the prime minister of which I am a member, is going to draw up a comprehensive proposal for streamlining the central bureaucratic organs.

Progress is already being made. The remaining controls on foreign exchange are set to be deregulated, and the central bank is going to get greater legal autonomy. Japan's biggest business organization, Keidanren, welcomes these moves, and will do its utmost to support the prime minister's ongoing efforts at reform.

In the 19th century, under pressure from America and other countries to end its seclusion, Japan totally rebuilt its political, social and economic systems. After World War II it again transformed itself drastically. Now it is working to achieve a third metamorphosis. The force of global competition leaves us little time. We must make 1997 the first year of structural reform and take big strides toward a Japanese revival.

The writer is chairman of the Toyota Motor Corp. and of Keidanren, the Japan Federation of Economic Organizations. He contributed this comment to The New York Times.

## Here Comes European Monetary Union, but Will It Work?

By Thomas L. Friedman

BRUSSELS — Would you like to be as rich as George Soros? Well, thanks to German Chancellor Helmut Kohl you may have the chance.

Mr. Soros is a hedge fund manager. Hedge fund managers flourish by borrowing piles of money and making huge currency bets with it. What they look for are anomalies—a gap between the politics and the economics, or between perception and reality. The killer hedge fund managers are those who see the gaps early and have the guts to make huge bets on them before anyone else.

There is a huge bet out there now just begging to be made, and it's this: Will the 15 members of the European Union get their act together and actually agree to get rid of the French franc, the Italian lira and the German mark and instead have just one single Eurocurrency by 1999?

Monetary union is the most ambitious project in political

economy in Europe since the Bolshevik revolution. Fifteen independent countries, led by France and Germany, are all in the process of trying to get their budget deficits down to 3 percent of GDP in order to create a single currency, the euro, and a single Alan Greenspan-like central bank that will control everyone's interest rates.

For independent states to cede such power to a super-bank and super-currency is unprecedented. And that creates the possibility of a huge gap between expectations and reality.

So the hedge fund wolves are gathering. If they suspect that EMU will fail, they will go "long" on the mark against the lira, because everyone in Europe will put money back in the strongest currency around, the Deutsche mark. If they suspect that EMU will succeed, they will make just the opposite trade.

So how should you bet? Too soon to say. Because the word in Brussels now is: "We think the euro will happen. We just don't know if it will work."

It will probably happen because of politics. Mr. Kohl, the most powerful statesman in Europe today, has staked his whole career on EMU happening. He sees the Eurocurrency as the device through which he will lock the next generation of Germans to Europe and ensure that Germany will never, ever go it alone again. He is such a dominant figure in Europe that it is hard to bet against him.

But it might not work because of economics. Mr. Kohl wants to have a single Eurocurrency before there is a single Euro-economy. Think of what can happen.

Finland lives off two commodities, cellular phones and forest products. What happens

when the markets for both cell phones and paper sag in the same year? The Finnish economy tanks, right? So what will the Finns want to do? Lower interest rates, use fiscal policy to pump money into their economy and depreciate their currency—all standard remedies.

What if, as Finland is tanking, Germany is booming and is worried about inflation? Under EMU there is only going to be one central bank in Europe with one interest rate policy. How is that central bank going to deal with Finland's desire for a weak euro and Germany's desire for a strong euro? The Finns will be squeezed. The only way Finland will remain competitive is if it cuts wages and fires people.

That is why this monetary union is such a huge shake of the dice. People judge political experiments by how they affect their wallets, and Europeans are not going to grow weary of integration if all it means is that

they grow poorer together. If this works, the European Union will be more solid than ever. If it doesn't, the whole Union could come apart.

How? One risk is that some countries, like Finland, that join the monetary union will implode under the pressure of trying to stay within the strict common currency rules. Another risk is that the European Union will fracture because some countries that want to join monetary union will be stiff-armed away (Italy? Spain?) because the Germans refuse to share a currency with anyone not as fiscally disciplined as they are.

I don't know which it will be, but I do know that if these splits appear, the hedge fund wolves will begin circling the EU campfire. They will go after the weaker currencies first, dragging them away into the forest. It won't be pretty, but you can bet on it. Mr. Soros certainly will.

The New York Times

## Speak Up for Eastward Expansion of the Atlantic Alliance

By Flora Lewis

NORFOLK, Virginia—The public debate on the future of NATO is just beginning in America, despite long and increasingly shrill arguments within the foreign policy establishments of various allies. A conference here, sponsored by Old Dominion University and the headquarters for the alliance's Atlantic command, gave a foretaste of the issues to be faced when the focus shifts to ratification of a revised treaty admitting new members. It won't be easy.

Because of the setting, most of the people here favored both NATO enlargement and maintenance of a strong, integrated structure. Harsh opponents did not participate. Even Russia's ambassador to the United States, the astute Yuli Vorontsov, was much milder in his objections than the threatening noises which had been coming from Moscow, although he argued that the alliance was bound to become irrelevant and fade away because wars of aggression to conquer territory are obsolete in the age of economic globalization.

He admitted that the Soviet Union had given orders to its huge tank-led army, based mostly in East Germany, to roll west automatically in the event of a nuclear attack on the Soviets. Moscow figured that would be a deterrent because the West would not use atomic arms against East Germany.

But reality has changed, and the threats to world security are of a different nature, which Russia and the West should address together, Mr. Vorontsov said, adding that Russia would surely refuse if invited to join NATO.

It is clear now that the alliance will offer new memberships at its Madrid meeting in July, probably only to Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic despite pressure from France to admit Romania and from Italy to admit Slovenia. Each will then negotiate details, and then all 16 of the current allies will be asked to ratify the decision. That is when it will become a major domestic political issue, especially in the United States.

The terms of the special parallel agreement now being

worked out with Russia in tense final talks will be an important factor. It is already evident that American critics will argue adamantly from two sides, some that too many concessions have been made to the Russians, some that their needs are not taken enough into account.

Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Jimmy Carter's national security adviser, warned that to pass political muster in the United States the agreement will have to observe "the fine line between accommodation and appeasement."

Cost, concern that NATO will be diluted to ineffectiveness, concern that West European allies busy reducing their armed forces will leave too much of the new burden on the United States, concern that the United States will now have to

be ready to go to war for Budapest as it was for Berlin, will also be prominent issues.

The trouble is that the public has been hearing only the negative possibilities and none of the positive reasons for expansion. President Bill Clinton will have to lead the debate, and soon, Mr. Brzezinski said, if it is not to be bogged down in America's mood for shucking responsibilities abroad.

So far, the noisiest part of the argument has been against adding eastern members, although often on contradictory terms. Some say it is dangerous because it could undermine Russian democrats, or because it would offer protection to the most secure and not to the Baltic states and Ukraine, which are seen to be most at risk.

Some say it would dilute the

capacity of an alliance organized against a common enemy, although that enemy has collapsed, or that there is no longer any need for a robust alliance.

The replies have been defensive, failing to explain the advantages, which I consider real and vital.

NATO's new enemy is instability, and the alliance is a mighty bolster to uncertain democratic regimes. Its insistence on civilian control of the military is effective, as proved in Spain, and its new requirement of settling border disputes with neighbors is a formidable barrier against resurgent historical conflict. Too bad that condition was not imposed on Greece and Turkey in the early days.

The Polish ambassador to the United States, Jerzy Kozminski, succinctly gave his country's basic reasons for wanting to join both NATO and

European Union in order of priority. They are valid for the existing members and show how foolishly trivial is the claim that Mr. Clinton only decided on expansion to please ethnic political lobbies before his re-election.

The reasons: (1) to be solidly ensconced in the club of democratic Western market economies, (2) to help consolidate domestic reform, (3) to fill the security vacuum in Eastern Europe, (4) to help establish peaceful relations within the region, as the alliance has done in Western Europe.

To the fears of being dragged into distant wars, it is pointed out that the United States has sent troops into foreign combat both on a major and a minor scale many times since World War II, but it has never had to fight in defense of a NATO ally. Alliance deterrence works.

And that is the underlying answer to why there is still a need for NATO. Twice in this century Europe went to war not knowing what America would do. With NATO, it knows for sure, and no country has launched a war against a member.

History is not fatalism, but European history has brought too many tragedies to risk slipping back into the old ways. President Clinton must explain clearly what is to be gained by regional expansion, and what would be lost without it.

© Flora Lewis

## The Irsome UN Benefits New York

By Mitchell L. Moss

NEW YORK — It is easy for New Yorkers to be irritated with the United Nations, and not just because of geopolitics. They see high-ranking diplomats who live in the city's fanciest neighborhoods dine out on expense accounts and—most annoying of all—park anywhere without worrying about rules or tickets.

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, in a war with diplomatic parking ticket scofflaws, knows he is on politically safe ground when he declares that he "wouldn't mind" if the United Nations left New York City.

But no matter how New Yorkers feel about the United Nations, they should be aware that it is a vital element in the city's economy.

About 16,000 people (with combined salaries of \$850 million annually) are employed locally by the UN Secretariat, specialized agencies, consulates and foreign missions. The United Nations and its related organizations put more people to work in this city—people who spend some of their salaries here—than do private employers such as Con Edison and Citicorp. At the Secretariat itself, most of these employees are Americans.

What is more, the stream of UN conferences produces \$27 million in visitor spending each year. And even if UN headquarters doesn't draw as many visitors as the Metropolitan Museum of Art or the Broadway theaters, some 420,000 people

visited the complex last year. The mayor has suggested that the sprawling UN site along the East River might be better used for other purposes—housing or office buildings, for example. But the complex has already transformed the area around it.

More than 50 years ago, when New York won the right to serve as UN headquarters, a revitalization began on a decaying portion of the East River waterfront in Turtle Bay. Foreign consulates, missions and international agencies wanted to be close to the site, and today roughly 30,000 people work in the office buildings on First and Second Avenues from 40th to 48th Streets. Many more—restaurant employees, clerical and delivery staffs and maintenance workers—support the UN agencies and missions.

Besides, in a city that has failed to make intelligent use of its waterfront, does anyone believe that the mayor could improve on the United Nations' spectacular blend of offices, open space and waterfront promenade?

Even if the United Nations abandoned New York, the land it occupies would revert to the federal government, not to the city. If the mayor thinks it's tough to negotiate with the United Nations, wait until he tries dealing with New Gingrich.

Now that New York, under

Mr. Giuliani, has become a safer place to live and work, it would seem that UN delegates want to be in our city. Surely the parking conflict can lead itself to a peaceful resolution.

The writer is director of the Taub Urban Research Center at New York University. He contributed this comment to The New York Times.

## IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

### 1897: French Cable

WASHINGTON — The French Embassy is assisting the French telegraphic and cable company in laying a new cable from Brest to Cape Cod to replace the one laid eighteen years ago. A Senate bill prohibiting the landing of new cables without the consent of Congress stirred protests from the French company. Official French sources reported that if the French company is denied entrance to America, there is a probability of retaliation by the French Government against the four American cable companies entering France.

### 1922: Rapallo Treaty

GENOA — With the unexpected suddenness of a bomb explosion, it became known that a Russo-German treaty had been signed in draft at Rapallo. The announcement has given rise to

the most animated comment in conference circles. The British delegation announced that the treaty is regarded as a dishonorable action and treachery to Europe. Nominally, the treaty is of an economic character, but in Allied, and especially in French, circles, it is looked upon as a high political act and one capable of leading to the withdrawal of France from the conference.

### 1947: Death Toll Rises

TEXAS CITY — Three new explosions rocked the devastated waterfront of this stricken Texas Gulf Coast town. Authoritative estimates placed the death toll in one of the nation's worst disasters at 650 or more. Two of the blasts occurred aboard a freighter loaded with thousands of tons of nitrates and sulphur. The third explosion occurred as another of the Monsanto oil tanks which have been destroyed blew up.

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## OPINION/LETTERS

What America Must Do:  
Subvert Chinese Regime

By George Will

WASHINGTON — The interval between the challenge of coping with the declining bear, the Soviet Union, and that of coping with the rising dragon, China, has been history's intermission. The curtain will soon rise on the next act of the drama of democracy's challenge to dictatorship.

Soon Congress will vote on renewal of China's most-favored-nation status. And at midnight on June 30 an event will occur for which there is no historic parallel: the quiet passage of one of the world's greatest cities, Hong Kong, from freedom into subservience to a dictatorship.

The problem of modulating the turbulence surrounding China's emergence as a superpower has been ominously likened to the problem posed by Germany's growing strength and confidence 10 decades ago. That problem was "solved" by two hideous wars. It would be wise to find better ways to break China to the saddle and bridle of international dealings. How to do that may be the largest question of American life for a generation.

Talk of China's emergence as a superpower may seem premature. Two decades of rapid economic growth have not cured the relative primitiveness of China's economy, its military (technologically backward and outnumbered 2-to-1 by the armed forces of China's seven largest neighbors) and its provisions for modernity, ranging

from the rule of law to public health measures.

Yes, supposedly one-quarter of all the construction cranes operating around the clock in one Chinese city, Shanghai. Yes, in the last 20 years 300 million Chinese have been raised above the international poverty line. But as many remain below it. The Economist estimates that the 50 million ethnic Chinese in the Southeast Asian diaspora may possess wealth equal to that of the 1.2 billion Chinese in the People's Republic.

China also is sickening: Industrialization's effect on its air can be gauged from the fact that one-quarter of all deaths are from lung diseases.

And much of China's economy is feudalism leavened by anarchy. Business Week estimates that half the 110,000 state enterprises lose money. The National Journal reports that 50 million of the 120 million employed in those enterprises do no useful work.

Still, surely China's ascent to great power status is necessary in a way that, say, the ascent of Philip II's Spain was not. And the fact that the China market has been a beguiling chimera for a century (last year China took less than 2 percent of U.S. exports, one-third as much in dollar value as Taiwan) does not mean it must always be that.

Aside from an incontinent lust



for trade, U.S. policy toward China calls to mind Tchaikovsky's description of Brahms's music — "a pedestal without a statue." And the policy debate resembles a semantic quibble: "engagement" versus "containment."

Engagement means a frankly de-moralized policy of commercial and cultural dealings that supposedly will, in time, produce the sedation and then the liberalization of China. Containment means skepticism about any early reform of China's domestic tyranny, and diplomatic and military planning against China's expansionist aspirations, as they can be inferred from its diplomacy and military procurements.

What the schematic clarity of the dichotomy between engage-

ment and containment obscures is this fact: Whatever the tactics, the strategic aim of U.S. policy is, and must be seen to be, the subversion of the Chinese regime. It is China's turn.

Since the fall in the 1970s of the Greek junta and the two Iberian dictatorships, authoritarianism has been in retreat. Today the only debate worthy of America concerns the optimal mixture of contacts, incentives and competitions — commercial, diplomatic, military — to hasten the dissolution of China's apparatus of repression.

President Bill Clinton has referred to China as a "former" Communist power, but most of the people living under Leninism in 1987 still are, in China. And China's political evolution may not be up toward pluralism but

down toward something like early 20th-century fascism.

So say Richard Bernstein and Ross H. Munro in their book "The Coming Conflict With China." China's fascistic attributes include a cult of the party state, a state dominated by the army and allied with financial interests dominated by the party, and "a powerful sense of wounded nationalism... a belief that there are historical grievances that have to be addressed, an intense, brittle, defensive kind of national pride, and a powerful suspicion of foreigners."

China shares borders with 14 nations and currently has land or sea disputes with 24 nations. If an aggressive China seeks pretexts, it can concoct numerous Danzigs and Sudetenlands.

Washington Post Writers Group.

Dutch Lessons on Life,  
Death and Ambiguity

By Ellen Goodman

AMSTERDAM — Halfway through our conversation, Gerrit van der Wal gets up to consult his dictionary. Surely, he says, there must be an English equivalent for the Dutch word *gedogen*.

The medical school professor, who conducted the most recent research on doctor-assisted death in the Netherlands, flips through

percent of deaths in Holland happen with a physician's assistance. Nine out of 10 requests are turned down. Most of those who had assisted suicide were not nursing home patients but cancer patients in their 60s or 70s. They died in the last days or weeks of their illness, at home, treated by a family doctor they knew for an average of seven years.

The Dutch system is not fail-safe or without its own ethical dilemmas. The most troubling discovery is that between 900 and 1,000 patients a year die from "nonvoluntary euthanasia."

As doctors here note, a bit defensively, this is not the result of Holland's euthanasia policies. It exists unseen and unreported in many countries where doctors deliver lethal painkilling doses of medicine without consent.

In practice, half of those who were no longer physically able to give consent had expressed the wish for euthanasia earlier. Most were in the last stages of disease.

But Dr. van der Wal agrees, "It's a weak point in your system if you don't know what the patient really wants. There is always the danger that you are ending life against the will of the patient."

It's a weak point as well that the Dutch laws don't make a distinction between mental and physical suffering. Not long ago, a psychiatrist performed euthanasia on a physically healthy woman who had lost her children and was in despair. He was acquitted in a case that left public confidence rattled.

What is notable is that 71 percent of the Dutch remain firm in their support of euthanasia policies. There is a palpable pride in doing things "the Dutch way." Pride in a system in which the law evolves with public consensus.

Yet even the strongest supporters of euthanasia told me, as did a retired family doctor, Herbert Cohen: "Euthanasia is not for export." The difference between Holland and America, they say, is universal health care. No one here chooses to die to protect their family finances.

Perhaps what is exportable, though, is the Dutch tolerance for ambiguity — for living in the ethical gray zone, grappling with complexity instead of denying it, keeping open to change.

The Boston Globe.

## MEANWHILE

the pages until he comes to the right place. "Gedogen," he reads slowly. "tolerance." Then he shakes his head and says, "No, that isn't quite right."

If the word is not easily translated, perhaps it is because the concept is so Dutch, so not-American. *Gedogen* describes a formal condition somewhere between forbidden and permitted. It is part of the Dutch dance of principle and pragmatism.

Here, drugs are *gedogen*. They remain illegal, but "soft" drugs like marijuana and hash are available in duly licensed coffee shops that dot this city. And here, too, euthanasia is *gedogen*. The ending of a life by a doctor remains illegal, but doctors who follow careful guidelines may grant their patients' death wishes.

I am here in this northern country awash with tulips and controversy because the U.S. Supreme Court has been asked to decide the question of doctor-assisted suicide. Holland has grappled longer and more publicly with the end-of-life issues that we Americans are only now beginning to confront seriously.

As Ad Kerkhof, a pious psychologist at the Free University, says, "Holland has become a Rorschach test for euthanasia."

In a week of interviewing, people bristled at the notion that Americans think the Dutch are riding themselves of the old and handicapped. In fact "euthanasia" is defined here as the termination of life by a doctor at the express wish of a patient. Under the guidelines, the patient's suffering must be unbearable and without the possibility of improvement. The requests must be persistent and confirmed by a second physician.

Dr. van der Wal, warily leading me through his most recent survey of doctors, points out that only 2.4

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Croatia, Then and Now

"Regarding 'Croatia's Good Old Days' (April 12) and 'Why Wink at Croatian Fascism?' (Opinion, April 16) by A.M. Rosenthal:

Both of these are excellent pieces, but they could have arrived earlier. To cite just one example of events in Croatia, the son-in-law of the World War II dictator Ante Pavelic was back in 1992 giving speeches about the necessity of revising "historical truths" about Croatian fascism.

That year, he and his wife registered their fascist party in Croatia, and said that had the wartime Independent State of Croatia, never existed, "we wouldn't have what we have today."

MIRIAM FLEISCHMAN,  
Paris.

I read Mr. Rosenthal's article with interest, but also with concern. The reader might conclude that the Croatian government is staffed by fascist sympathizers. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Croatian anti-fascist partisans were among the most active in Central Europe during World War II. Clearly, a number of Croats during World War II accepted fascist ideology — but no more and no less than some other Europeans did during the same period.

It is worth noting that during World War II, President Franjo Tudjman actively participated in the anti-fascist struggle. Today the policy of Croatia and its democratically elected officials is consistent with the principles of other Western states. The Croatian gov-

ernment and its president resolutely reject and denounce all radical views and behavior, be it of left-wing or right-wing origin.

TOMISLAV SUNIC,  
Brussels.

The writer is a counselor at the Croatian Embassy in Brussels.

## Aid Guidelines

Regarding "Rethinking Humanitarian Aid in the New Era" and "New U.S. Guidelines for Providing Humanitarian Aid" (Opinion,

March 12 and 13) by J. Brian Atwood and Leonard Rogers:

Imagine the class-action and liability lawsuits if government humanitarian aid activities in the United States led to mass death, displacement and starvation. It's only a matter of time before international lawyers begin taking relief and development malpractice suits to The Hague and someone establishes a global "licensing" authority for humanitarian organizations.

BOBBY DEAN,  
Antananarivo, Madagascar.

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## Turkish Delights: The Magnificent Mosques of Edirne

By Godfrey Goodwin

**E**DIRNE, Turkey — In the golden age of Suleyman the Magnificent, the verdant city of Edirne, founded by the Roman Emperor Hadrian, was the second capital of the Ottoman Empire and three times its present size — its monumental architecture and gardens a brilliant setting for grandees and ambassadors on horseback, its stone pavements thronged with dervishes and merchants.

Today, the once major city peters out amid a vision of trees and greenery — an appealing country town within sight of both the Greek and Bulgarian frontiers. But within its shrunken borders are exquisite mosques and public baths, and market halls still line its spacious avenues.

Approaching Edirne on the highway from Istanbul, a four-hour trip, I like to stop and look down on the center of the city, just beyond the immense 16th-century caravanserai built by Rustem Pasha. The grand vizier of Suleyman the Magnificent, he married Suleyman's daughter

Mihrimah, a woman of extraordinary ability and riches. The caravanserai is one of the largest ever built, with endless domed chambers set around two courtyards. Above these on the skyline rise the great cupolas of five mosques with their minarets ranging from delicately slim to fatter brick versions.

Well beyond the city center is the island palace of Sultan Suleyman, pillaged in the 19th century by Russian invaders who destroyed its romantic pavilions and gardens; all that is left are the ruins of the kitchens. The island itself, called Saray, has been deserted by the modern Edirne, which has receded behind the banks of the Tunca River.

Although the streets of the city are no longer thronged, as they were until the 18th century, they are still lively. The bazaars crowded with local inhabitants in search of necessities like pots and pans, cutlery and sensible clothes. The charm of Edirne today is in the pleasure of gentle walking — from the city's center, with its cafes and shops, down Talat Pasha Avenue, to the Gazi Mihal bridge and the meadows beside the banks of the Tunca, where children swim and play.

**FAVORITE WALK** I have visited Edirne at least 40 times because of its rich architectural heritage, most recently last July, but I like to begin each visit with the same walk. Leaving the main road just before the modern bridge over the Tunca, I park the car in a village, from which a broad dirt track reaches the 15th-century double bridge on the left. From the bridge I can imagine the miles of orchards lining the river where, until a century ago, the townsfolk came on warm evenings to

picnic, dance and sing. The bridge leads to the high dike that protects the great hospital built by Beyazid II in the 1480s. The dike offers a superb view of the hospital — a grand complex that is a tribute to Ottoman charity.

The halls where the patients lodged are on one side of a paddock filled with wildflowers, the handsome storerooms and kitchens are on the other, and the mosque with its courtyard is set between. The mosque is no more and no less than one astonishing dome over a monumental square hall. On each side of it are the quarters for the dervishes, one of the mystic sects that were responsible for nursing the patients, who were fed fresh fruit and vegetables and soothed and cheered by musicians three times a week.

Getting back into the car, I cross back over the river and proceed down the long Talat Pasha Avenue to the great mosque of Selim II, one of

the noblest of all Ottoman buildings, splendidly set on the site of the first Ottoman palace built in the 1360s. It was from here that Mehmet II set out to conquer Constantinople at the age of 21. Designed by the greatest of Islamic architects, Sinan, the mosque is striking because of its four minarets — which at more than 230 feet (about 75 meters) are the tallest in Islam — and its great dome, about 103 feet in diameter, visible long before reaching town.

The proportions within are just as breathtaking. Semidomes have given place to eight piers that open up the interior. One appreciates that this building (1569-74) is brother to the masterpieces of the High Renaissance.

The tiles in this mosque hug the windows of the mihrab apse where the imam leads the faithful in prayer. They are panels of the richest color and brilliant execution. In the 1570s the potteries

at Iznik (Nicaea) reached a perfection that achieved a dazzling range of colors and unblemished white grounds. The reds, in particular, were the envy of European ceramicists. There are unique designs set into the shoulders of the many arches, but the glory is in the royal box (*hunkar mahfili*). Having asked the officer of the mosque for permission to see them, I made a modest donation of about \$2 and followed the guide up the stairs in the wall. Apart from the looted panel now in the Hermitage, all the tiles are still there and of pristine beauty, with imaginative floral designs. The center panel of the mihrab is formed of inlaid wooden shutters that open magically so that sultans, on their knees, could look out on nothing but the heavens.

There is a small museum in the former teaching complex of this mosque, but the energetic should press on for a little less than a mile up the

hill to the mosque of Murad II, father of Mehmet the Conqueror, which was once the center of a Mevlevi dervish convent. The highly intellectual and aesthetic order is still famous for the mystical dance in which seven participants slowly gyrate like spheres, each with one hand pointing to heaven and the other to earth. Sadly, all but the mosque is gone, and the building is often shut at the whim of the imam. But the view across the plain to the foothills of Bulgaria is still fine, and a mood of medieval fantasy survives.

Renouncing down the hill to the center of town, I visit the bazaar below the Selim II mosque, where stout country boots, an Edirne specialty, are sold.

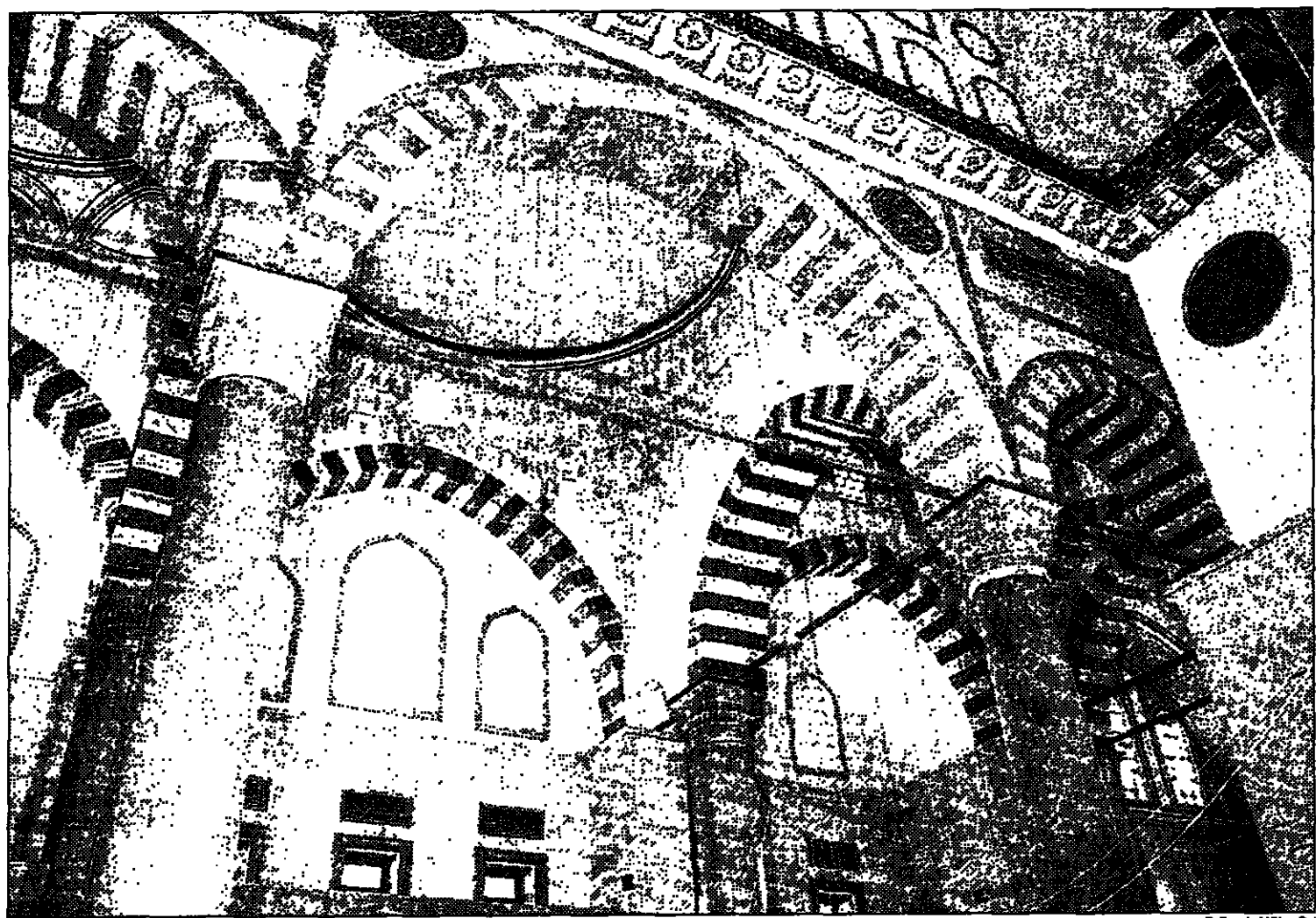
Outside the bazaars are numerous open-air cafes, one of which has tables on the slope beneath the Selim II mosque. Although this cafe is cooled by a pool sparkling with jets of water, the umbrellas over the tables are sometimes not enough and it is best to have a hot oriced tea in one of the tree-shaded cafes along the main street: one of my favorites is the cafe in the piazza formed by the caravanserai and the Old Mosque (*Eski Cami*). The Eski Cami has an interesting independent minaret of monumental proportions built of brick. Although the mosque is under repair, you can still see the astonishingly large inscriptions on the walls, added in the 19th century.

**T**HE Turks have always been a practical people who erect what they need where they can without attempting to imitate an older style. Nowhere does this work better than at the nearby Uc Serefeli Cami (the Mosque of the Three Balconies, used by the muezzins who make the call to prayer). In the 16th century — the time of Suleyman the Magnificent — there was not just one singer for each balcony but four, at each of the cardinal points. For this mosque, which was the royal mosque of Murad II, the father of the conqueror Mehmet II, the first two minarets were built at the corners where mosque and courtyard meet.

This is the usual position in a sultan's mosque and traditionally these minarets should form an identical pair. But here the minaret with the three balconies is more than 223 feet tall and its companion shorter. Both are built of brick like the minaret of the Old Mosque, which this one supplanted as the Friday Mosque of Edirne; they were joined by two unmatching minarets at the other corners of the rectangular courtyard. The last added is flamboyant, its trunk twisted like barley sugar, but the last is built in finest cut stone, which is why it is the slimmest, with the traditional dignity that became universal after 1500.

Built about 1440, Uc Serefeli Cami represents the initial step in the evolution of classical Ottoman domes; its dome is almost 79 feet in diameter, but is low and built cautiously with massive supports.

Godfrey Goodwin, the author of several books on Ottoman architecture, wrote this for *The New York Times*.



Interior of the great mosque of Selim II, set on the site of the first Ottoman palace built in the 1360s; exterior, inset far left.

## Bursa's Baths and Splendid Tombs Recall Royal Escapades

By Stephen Kinzer  
New York Times Service

**B**URSA, Turkey — When the notorious Byzantine empress Theodora was not scandalizing Constantinople with nude dances and other outrageous antics, she liked to adjourn to Bursa, a town 60 miles (100 kilometers) south of Istanbul on the other side of the Sea of Marmara, with a retinue of up to 4,000 attendants and acolytes. She held festivals in the hot springs, which bubble continuously from the earth, providing just the sort of luxurious sensuality she enjoyed.

I understand what attracted Theodora. The thermal bath I visited, in a wing of the once-grand Celik Palace Hotel, is one of half a dozen still open to the public in Bursa. It is a circular basin about 30 feet (9 meters) across, illuminated in part by hundreds of columns of light streaming through small holes in the dome overhead. The water is almost too hot to enter. Recreants sit on one of the wide steps that run around the circumference, submerging as much of their bodies as they choose. The hall is filled with steam, giving visitors the opiated sense of having walked into an Andrei Tarkovsky film.

Attendants suggest limiting a visit to 20 minutes, and that's just as well. The experience dulls the senses so completely that one might otherwise drift into blissful unconsciousness and slip numbly below the surface.

Which would be a shame, because so many more monuments from Bursa's glory days remain to be seen. They include rich museums,

splendid royal tombs, and two of the world's most exquisitely designed mosques.

The last decade has not been kind to Bursa. The city has grown without much apparent planning to a metropolis of 900,000. Two large auto factories and dozens of metal fabricating plants and textile mills have turned what was once known as Green Bursa into a major industrial center. Residents say that pollution has raised the air temperature so that snows, which used to be knee-deep each winter, now rarely reach ankle height. But in springtime, there are enough trees blooming to show how the city won its fame as an idyllic retreat.

**PILLAGED BY TAMERLANE** Bursa has been the capital of two empires. It was the center of the Seljuk monarchy in the 11th century, and 400 years later, the Ottoman sultans established their seat there. It was pillaged by Tamerlane's hordes, devastated by an earthquake in 1855, and occupied by the Greeks from 1920 to 1922. Through it all, the great monuments that gave it world fame have remained more or less intact.

One of those monuments, the Ulu Mosque in the center of the city, owes its grand scale in part to the desire of its builder, Sultan Yildirim Bayezid, to break a promise. Before setting out on a military campaign, he promised that if God gave him victory, he would show his gratitude by building 20 mosques in Bursa.

He did return victorious, but then realized that he did not have enough money to keep his vow. The solution he conceived would do credit to any modern politician. He announced that he would

build a single mosque with 20 domes. Construction of the Ulu Mosque began in 1396 and took four years.

Its twin minarets and central glass cupola, the three-level fountain that stands in the middle of the cavernous main hall and the gold-inlaid prayer alcoves and exquisite walnut pulpit make it a highly unusual combination of late Seljuk and early Ottoman architecture. Among its most striking features are the sweeping works of calligraphy that decorate the walls and the 12 rectangular pillars that support the domes.

You need walk only a few steps from the mosque to plunge into the jumble of modern commerce. Bursa's market, partly covered and partly open, is among the most colorful and lively to be found anywhere in Turkey, partly because this region is one of the most fertile agricultural areas in the Middle East. The produce of nearby farms overflows from a hundred shops and outdoor stands.

**A**T the adjacent Koza Han, built 500 years ago as a center for silk traders, the upper floor is still used for silk retailing. Downstairs one of the corridors is lined with antique stores that offer framed examples of Arabic calligraphy, silver candlesticks, timepieces, jewelry, faded fabrics, ceramics and a host of other bric-a-brac. Of the silk shops, I found some of the most original designs at Carena, in stall 233. The best selection of antiques is at Minyanur, stall 10-11.

A silk blouse or a brightly colored scarf at Carena costs \$20. At Minyanur, framed ex-

amples of fine 19th-century calligraphy range from \$125 to \$2,200, and a 129-year-old mirror framed in handcrafted silver costs \$1,550.

One of the oldest arguments in Bursa is whether the Ulu Mosque is the city's finest or whether that honor belongs to the Green Mosque a couple of miles away. If you have a weakness for marble carvings and ceramic art, the Green Mosque, which was completed in 1424, will probably be your choice. The stuccoed marble portal over the door is a masterly weave of Arabic inscriptions and ornamentation, and the equally ornate marble fountain inside, carved from a single piece of stone, is just as remarkable. The two rear alcoves, both under high domes, are paneled with spectacular blue-and-green tiles, which rank among the finest examples of this great art form to be found anywhere.

Across the street from the Green Mosque is its counterpart, the Green Tomb. It houses the remains of Sultan Mehmet I, who expanded and unified the Ottoman Empire before his death in 1421. The building is hexagonal, more Seljuk than Ottoman in design, and covered with turquoise tiles. Intricately carved walnut doors guard the sarcophagus, which is encased in deep blue tiles overlaid with bold calligraphic inscriptions in bright gold. More tiles, some of them carrying magnificently artistic transcriptions of Muslim proverbs and verses from the Koran, cover the walls and surround the windows.

In the same part of town, don't miss the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts, which is in what was once the Green Mosque's theological school. Built around a large quadrangle, it

houses a richly varied collection of objects, including ceramic plates dating from the 12th century, elaborate chests inlaid with ivory and tortoise shell, silver jewelry studded with rich gems, embroidered towels and covers, and silver vessels and perfume burners. Several rooms are decorated to give views of life in past centuries, including one that is a re-creation of an Ottoman coffee house.

### FAMED ROMAN BRONZES

Perhaps the most impressive treasures are enormous illuminated Korans dating from the 14th century that recall the Book of Kells and other medieval manuscripts. Inside Culture Park, the city's best remaining place for walking, playing and picnicking, the Archaeological Museum displays fine Hellenic, Roman and Byzantine artifacts. Its most famous prizes are two Roman bronzes from the second-century B.C. One is a bust of Athena cloaked in delicately crafted armor, her helmet raised to reveal a surprisingly gentle expression. The other is a nude statue of the young Apollo, with wavy locks falling over his shoulders.

I also enjoy contemplating the five busts of Zeus arranged in a row, each evidently fashioned by a different hand and all offering different interpretations of what divine grandeur might look like in human form.

There are also several cafes in the park where you can relax over a glass of tea or cup of Turkish coffee (*sade* is without sugar, *orta* is medium sweet, *sekerli* is very sweet).

## Heading South for the Spring to See Cordoba in Full Bloom

By Al Goodman

**C**ORDOBA, Spain — Sixty buildings in old Cordoba will open their doors on a secret for two weeks in May: their beguiling flower-filled interior patios, in full spring splendor for the annual patio festival.

It is the city's moment, from May 5 to 18, to showcase a patio tradition that dates back more than a millennium in this former Arab caliphate, but that is in danger of succumbing to modern pressures.

Nowadays, many patios are part of the homes of retired Cordobans, some in their eighties. Few younger people can devote an hour or two daily to watering the hundreds of potted roses, geraniums or carnations that decorate a single patio.

The plants, usually nurtured with water drawn in buckets from each patio's deep old well, adorn the sun-drenched white patio walls like works of art hung closely together in galleries at the Louvre. Framed by Moorish arches and Spanish red-tile roofs, the flowerpots fight not to get elbowed out by the expansive jasmine and orange trees.

### THE SIGHTS AND SMELLS

All will be in full bloom and fragrance for the festival. Although Cordoba's patios are open for visits during the year, the festival's handy map makes them easy to find, and the imposing



Splendor in the patios of Cordoba.

wooden doors that often shutter the patios behind high walls are kept open from 9 A.M. to midnight daily.

Patios have been a tradition in homes since

ancient Babylon and Egypt. The Greeks and Romans extended the concept across the Mediterranean. In Cordoba, once Europe's largest city during the Middle Ages with a million inhabitants, the former Moorish rulers added flowers and wells to their enclosed patios.

The mosque, now the city's top tourist attraction, opens onto a large rectangular patio containing more than 60 orange trees. Locals clearly had a goal to emulate.

Nowadays, it is mainly working-class people who live around and share the patios as an outdoor living room for as many as seven families. For them, the festival opens their communal space to the public, and they seem to relish the attention and the compliments.

Foreigners come, take me by the arm, snap a photograph of us in the patio and then mail it to me," said Dolores Jimenez, 70, a retired hairdresser. "We're famous all over."

She is the third generation in her family to inhabit two 18th-century lodgings on Anqueda street, each with a distinctive patio.

**A**T 3 ANQUEDA, a narrow, short entryway leads to the interior patio, where the blue-painted flower pots are stuffed into every nook and cranny and up to the balcony, giving the place the feel of a plant shop. Yet there is still room for six turtles to slowly pace the patio floor.

Directly across the street, at 2 Anqueda, Jimenez and her aunt, age 82, keep watch over a much larger patio that includes water lilies, an orange tree and olive tree, a dozen caged yellow

canaries singing noisily, and chickens and cats. It is a patio-cum-mini-farm of which few are left in Cordoba.

From narrow Anqueda street, with the doors closed, there is no hint of what lies behind the high walls. That may sound romantic to visitors, but it is worrisome to the Friends of the Cordoba Patios Association, created in 1974 and now with 900 members. The association aims to preserve the patios when older residents are unable to, or when families with children opt for better housing and leave behind the cramped quarters facing onto a patio.

"The patios are an all-year effort. You have to water them," said Manuel Garrido, the association president. "It's something intimate for a person."

But so far the association has been able to purchase only two of the city's 170 traditional patios. One is the association's headquarters, at 50 San Basilio street, which will be open for the festival.

For the first time, the association this year convinced businesses, including a savings and loan, an olive oil firm and two supermarket chains, to help city hall supply the prize money for the festival's patio contest.

Local experts will judge the patios for floral arrangement, conservation or illumination (some insiders say the best time to see the patios is after dark). The first prize is 400,000 pesetas (\$2,800). But even the patio owners who don't receive top prizes will be paid 100,000 pesetas just for participating and sprucing up their premises.

"Look, we're old," said Dolores de la Haba, 72. "I get up in the morning and clean my little apartment. Then what do I do the rest of the day?" she asked, crossing her arms. The answer, she quickly added, was to spend a few hours watering the plants at her patio at 7 Martin de Roa street.

Across town at 32 Los Limeros, one of the city's top restaurants, Bodegas Campos, has five patios on display. Some date from the late 18th century. The best time to see them, without waiters rushing about, is from 11 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. or from 6 to 7:30 P.M. For a break from patio viewing, the bar offers a glass of local fortified wine and a snack plate of cured ham, cheese and olives for 950 pesetas. Full meals can cost about 5,500 pesetas per person.

**LOOKING FOR LODGINGS** Hotels in Cordoba, which may be full during the festival, are not big contributors to preserve the patios, despite requests from the patio association. But alternative lodging may be found in Seville, a 45-minute ride on the high-speed train (with frequent departures), or in Madrid. The capital is less than two hours away on the high-speed train, making Cordoba a reasonable destination for a day trip. Admission to the patios is free. Festival maps will be available at Cordoba's tourist offices, hotels, the patio association headquarters at 50 San Basilio, and at the patios themselves.

Al Goodman, who contributes to *The New York Times* from Spain, wrote this for the *International Herald Tribune*.



## THE CAR COLUMN

## The Meat-and-Potatoes Picnic

By Gavin Green

**W**HAT are cars for? At their most basic, they provide A-to-B transport for people. But there's much more to it than that. In the early days, cars were status symbols and playthings for the rich. The first horseless carriages were neither sensible, fast or reliable; if those were your priorities, you went by train or horse or bike. Cars, nowadays the great equalizers (same journey time whether you're a royal in a Rolls-Royce or a garbage collector in a Dodge, and not that much difference in comfort), were then great social dividers.

In the '20s and '30s, Henry Ford in America, Herbert Austin in Britain and various European motor moguls made cars that were cheap and plentiful and, in those halcyon prewar days, the motor car was truly an A-to-B transport tool, little more and usually (breakdowns notwithstanding) no less.

After the war in America, and from about the late '50s in Europe, once prosperity replaced postwar austerity, the car became a symbol of sophistication as much as an object of utility.

Nowadays, various research has confirmed, we choose a car on its style more than any other single quality (apart from past experience). Once, the key was trustworthiness. But since the Japanese gave the world the assumption of mechanical reliability, Europe and America were forced to follow, and now reliability is virtually a given. So is comfort. And safety.

Toyota, maker of the new Picnic, will tell you that this is another "lifestyle" vehicle, perfectly attuned to the needs of 35- to 45-year-olds with children who enjoy an active, sporty lifestyle etc., and as if to ram home the point, they've given this car a fun, modern name. One of its key ingredients, if you believe the publicity blurb, is fun.

## THE RIGHT OF SENSIBILITY

Oh, the artificial gloss put on a fine if ordinary object by the creative minds of the mendacious and manipulative marketer! Instead of a picnic, this is a meat-and-two-vegetables vehicle: a solid, de-



pendable, unfrivolous machine that harks back to the primary function of the car. Indeed, it is very possibly the most sensible vehicle in which to carry a family, and friends that there has ever been.

For starters, it is made by Toyota, and there's powerful evidence to suggest that it is the world's best manufacturer of vehicles for everyday consumers. All modern cars may be reliable, but various reports suggest that Toyotas are the most. Second, the Picnic is a clever combination of six-seater practicality but without the bulk and cost, which are major drawbacks of typical multipurpose vehicles. It is smaller and less minibus-like than the Renault Espace or Chrysler Voyager. Cheaper too. It may only have six seats, but how many times, really, do you need the seven or eight seats that full-sized MPVs offer?

A smaller cabin makes for a smaller exterior, and thus the Picnic feels more like a car than MPV rivals. Like more conventional and larger MPVs, you keep the big glass area, so the cabin is very airy. The seats are arranged two-by-two over three rows, with a central aisle for easy mobility. The individual back seats come out and the others fold and swivel and perform various engineering gymnastics to increase versatility.

The test car was an automatic and featured a column-mounted gearshift, common in America but rare in Europe,

where we have all been brainwashed into preferring big and bulky center consoles replete with gear change. Such setups are all very well on sports cars, where cabin space is irrelevant. But the column shift is far more practical when space is the key.

**T**HERE is nothing special about the way this car drives. Its controls are light, it rides well, it handles tidily, it sips fuel in a miserly fashion, and it goes well enough. What more do you want? It is a car that enables a pair of adults and their three or four children (or two children and friends, or children and grandparents, or any combination you please) to be transported in comfort and relative cheapness. There is an anonymity about it, which is entirely in keeping with its true role in life: that of an unpretentious yet pleasing runabout. Isn't that surely what family cars are for?

• Toyota Picnic. About \$25,000. Four-cylinder 1998cc engine, 126 BHP at 5,400 rpm. Four-speed automatic gearbox (five-speed manual also available). Top speed: 175 kph (109 mph). Acceleration: 0-100 kph in 11.7 seconds. Average fuel consumption: 9.7 liters/100 km.

Next: The Porsche Boxster

Gavin Green is the editor in chief of Car magazine.

## MOVIE GUIDE

## THE SAINT

Directed by Phillip Noyce.

U.S.

My first piece of advice about "The Saint," an action-romance starring Val Kilmer and Elisabeth Shue, is to shed all expectations. I had to. A long time ago—before many of you were lawyers—I used to watch "The Saint" when it was a British television series. (It also aired in the United States.) The 1960s show, based on the books by Leslie Charteris, was about Simon Templar (played by Roger Moore), a suave, modern-day Robin Hood in a white turtleneck sweater, who drove a classic Volvo P1800 and stole from all the right people for all the right reasons. As played by Moore, he was effortlessly stylish. And audiences would wait for the Saint's telltale signals directed at the camera, a raised eyebrow, a wink (usually over the shoulder of his latest female conquest) and a superimposed halo above his head—followed by the unforgettable "Saint" theme. Terrific stuff. The Saint was played by some 19 actors (American, British and even Australian) on screen, radio and television—including George Sanders (in the movies) and Vincent Price (on radio). And when Charteris

moved to America, his Saint character became more Americanized anyway. Kilmer's gentleman-rogue in "The Saint" is hardly cultural sabotage. And besides, Kilmer (who drives a red Volvo C70 Turbo Coupe throughout the movie and operates a mean Apple PowerBook 5300ce) infuses his part with such mischievous, comic vigor, he disarms you. The motto for this movie? Don't take it seriously. Templar (Kilmer) is a high-priced, free-lance infiltrator currently employed by a ruthless Russian mobster who wants to use a new formula for cold fusion to transform Mother Russia (where a hearing-aid shortage has roiled the country), turn a tidy profit and establish Ivan as a communist-czar-for-life. But Templar has to steal the formula from Dr. Emma Russell (Shue), a beautiful, eccentric scientist who stuffs her scribbles into her bra and who gets all giddy at the thought of serving mankind. Phillip Noyce, who made "Dead Calm," "Patriot Games" and "Clear and Present Danger," keeps things moving at a kinetic, involving pace. And he keeps the cameras trained on Kilmer and Shue, probably his smartest strategy of all.

(Desson Howe, WP)

## CHASING AMY

Directed by Kevin Smith.

U.S.

The hero of Kevin Smith's third film is smart, confident, well versed in pop trivia and ready for Socratic discussion of any feasible issue, no matter how petty or small. So Holden (Ben Affleck) has a lot in common with the filmmaker, whose "Chasing Amy" re-ignites the energy of "Clerks" and puts Smith's career back on track. After the literally sophomoric dawdling of his more elaborate "Mallrats," Smith retrieves some of the spare logic and basic cleverness of his celebrated first feature. He also expands that style to accommodate genuine emotions. Still showing his touch for gurgulous, hair-splitting conversation, Smith engages his characters in a bright, spirited demonstration of just how difficult modern love can be. As played with wonderful ease by Affleck, Holden is just the right level-headed man for such matters. He is a comic-book artist. But Holden also seems worldly and self-possessed. Certainly he is the grown-up in debates with his sidekick, Banky (played by Jason Lee, who was the best thing in "Mallrats" and is again darkly funny here). And

he has a cool, contained manner that suggests he has seen everything, though it turns out he hasn't seen anything quite like Alyssa (Joey Lauren Adams) before. This bittersweet blond first turns up at a lecture, where Holden's effeminate and very funny friend, Hooper (Dwight Ewell), is pretending to be a macho black militant as he attacks racism in the "Star Wars" trilogy. And when Holden begins sparring with Alyssa, he finds her a quick-witted, mischievous intellectual match. Then, as he starts finding himself sexually attracted to her, he discovers there's a hitch. Alyssa likes women and has no sexual interest in men. The stubborn style of "Chasing Amy" makes this a beginning, not an end. Holden and Alyssa are off and running in a set of conversations that artfully challenge their basic assumptions about sex and love. As "Chasing Amy" redefines the boy-meets-girl formula for a culture where anything goes, it thrives on Smith's dry, deadpan direction. Smith's knowing humor and unflinching style make a good antidote to gender chaos. Music by David Finer contributes to the film's loose, inviting mood.

(Janet Maslin, NYT)

## CROSSWORD

## ACROSS

- 1 Whisk  
2 Comforting words of empathy  
3 Sound at the door  
14 Barbara's partner in cartoons  
15 Rover  
16 Pueblo pronoun  
17 Knock for —  
18 February birthstones

- 20 Decorates, in a way  
22 Cork's place  
23 Temple of Apollo site  
24 "The Jungle Book" setting  
25 Loser's place?  
26 Bolts over

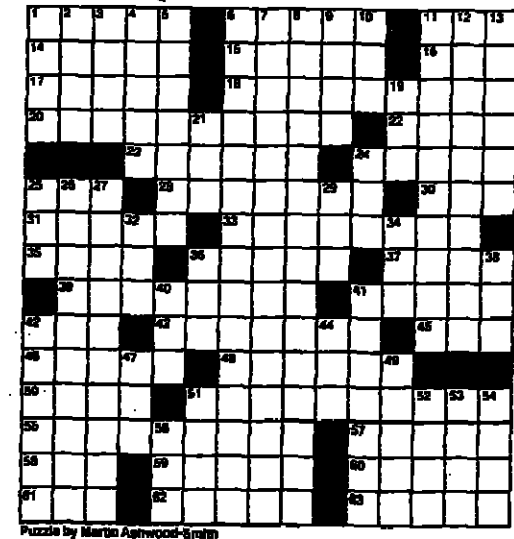
- 30 Puker, e.g., in "Mister Roberts" Abbr.  
31 Range rovers  
32 Terminal activity  
33 Ne plus ultra  
34 Tip  
37 Made a great point  
39 Pitcher's place  
41 Edit

- 42 Portmanteau  
43 1978 Packard Remick thriller  
45 — Anna-de-Basque, Québec  
46 — Rogers St. Johns

- 48 Roundabout  
50 Jaunt  
51 Reacting to, as a bad joke  
52 Some Cadillac  
57 Kind of fairy  
58 Highway warning

- 59 In — (untidy)  
60 Sharp ridge  
61 Great amount  
62 Best Picture of 1955

- 63 Copy at the office  
DOWN  
1 Tobacco weed  
2 Syllables meaning "I forgot the words"



© New York Times/Edited by Will Shortz.

## Solution to Puzzle of April 17

SNOW DRUG NONP  
NOTA EERO OMES  
CARRYABIG SERB  
CLOES ALICE  
CHARADES SHINDY  
IKON TREE  
AAROUND MIRRORS  
EVERY CAPE REL  
MIAS BRUNT SIVA  
ULM DRUM TIEUP  
PASSION CANDLEP  
CLOES ALICE  
DISARM ODDITIES  
TODOL ZOTTERIBS  
PYRE AREA ISAT  
ALER BEDS PENS

## ARTS GUIDE

## AUSTRIA

**VIENNA**  
Kunsthause Wien, tel: (1) 712-0485, open daily, to Aug. 4: "Karl Schmidt-Rottluff." The German Expressionist (1884-1978) was one of the founders of Die Brücke in 1905 that advocated simplification of form and color. The exhibition features 180 paintings, watercolors, drawings, graphics and sculptures.

## BELGIUM

**ANTWERP**  
Koninklijk Museum voor Schone Kunsten, tel: (3) 238-78-08, closed Mondays, to June 22: "Miniatures Flamandes pour Princes et Bourgeois, 1475-1550." At the time when printing was conquering Europe, miniature painting enjoyed its final flowering. Flemish illuminated books, often commissioned by princes, burghers and men of the church, became status symbols. The exhibition features 50 music manuscripts, prayer books and illuminated books.

**BRUSSELS**  
Musée d'Art Ancien, tel: (2) 508-3211, closed Mondays, continuing to July 27: Paul Delvaux, 1897-1994. Paintings and works on paper by the Belgian painter.

## BRITAIN

**LONDON**  
Tate Gallery, tel: (171) 887-6732, open daily, continuing to June 8: "Hogarth the Painter." Features paintings by William Hogarth (1697-1764), whose fame mainly rests on his engravings.

## FRANCE

**PARIS**  
Grand Palais, tel: 01-44-13-17-17, closed Mondays, continuing to May 28: "Angkor et Dix Siècles d'Art Khmer." Art from Cambodia dating back to the 8th century. And to July 14: "Paris/Bruxelles - Bruxelles/Paris." The confrontation between Belgian and French art in the second part of the 19th century.

**SPAIN**  
**BARCELONA**  
Museu d'Art Contemporani, tel: (93) 412-08-10, closed Mondays, to June 22: "Josep Lluís Sert: Architect in New York." From his exile at the end of the Spanish Civil War to his becoming dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Design, Sert worked in New York and came into contact with Le Corbusier, Hans Richter and Marcel Duchamp, among others. The exhibition brings together works from the Sert collection at Harvard.

## UNITED STATES

**NEW YORK**  
Metropolitan Museum of Art, tel: (212) 870-3791, closed Mondays, continuing to April 27: "Gian Battista Tiepolo." 80 paintings and 33 etchings by the Venetian painter, 1697-1768. "Cartier: 1900-1930." Traces the evolution of styles since the creation of the Maison Cartier in 1847.

**PITTSBURGH**  
The Frick Art Museum, tel: (412) 371-0800, closed Mondays, to June 22: "Collecting in the Gilded Age: Art Patronage in Pittsburgh, 1880-1910." 130 paintings that used to be in the collections of Pittsburgh industrialists, such as Mellon and Frick. Features French and French-inspired works as well as paintings depicting Pittsburgh and its history.

## WASHINGTON

National Museum of American Art, tel: (202) 633-8998, open daily, to Aug. 3: "Singular Impressions: The Monotype in America." 125 examples of the printmaking medium, in which a printed image is transferred through pressure to a sheet of paper. Features works by

## ITALY

**VENICE**  
Palazzo Grassi, tel: (41) 522-1375, open daily, continuing to July 13: "Arte del '900: La Pittura



On show in Berlin: David Bailey's "Jane Birkin. Goodbye Baby and Amen."

Flaminio e Olandese." A selection of works by 20th-century Belgian and Dutch painters, including van Gogh, Ensor, Magritte, Delvaux and Mondrian.

## JAPAN

**ASAKA**  
Toyota Municipal Museum of Art, tel: (565) 34-66-10, closed Mondays, to June 22: "Tony Cragg." 20 works by the British sculptor (born 1949) whose sculpture uses everyday objects and street refuse.

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## SUMMER FESTIVALS

Today, the Arts Guide lists major music festivals due to start next month in various European cities. June festivals will be listed on Friday, May 16.

## BERGEN, NORWAY

Bergen International Festival, tel: (47) 55-31-21-70, fax: 31-55-31, May 21 to June 1: Laila Ove Andnes, this year's musician in residence, performs in five concerts. Also, on the program, Schubert's "Winterreise," in a Paris Opera Comique production, and "Tales of Hoffman" by the Berlin Komische Oper.

**BRESCIA AND BERGAMO, ITALY**  
Festival Pianistico Internazionale, tel: (39) 30-293-032, fax: 240-0771 (Brescia), (39) 35-415-0022 (Bergamo), May 3 to June 25: The Teatro Donizetti, Bergamo and the Teatro Grande, Brescia feature Brahms' "Deutsches Requiem." Andras Schiff plays Schubert in both cities and Lorin Maazel conducts the London Philharmonic in Brescia.

**BRIGHTON, ENGLAND**  
Brighton International Festival, tel: (44) 1273-292-592, fax: 622-453, (www.brighton.co.uk/festival), May 3-25: Simon Rattle opens the festival with the City of Birmingham Symphony playing Schumann and Mahler and Daniele Gatti leads the Royal Philharmonic in a Schubert and Mendelssohn program at the closing concert. Also on the program, the British premiere of Austrian composer Gottfried von Einem's 1947 "Don Giovanni" and Puccini's "Madama Butterfly."

**DRESDEN, GERMANY**  
Dresdner Musikfestspiele, tel: (49) 351-4866-317, fax: 4866-307, (http://www.dresdner-musikfestspiele.com), May 17 to June 1: "Italians in Florence on the Elbe" is the theme of the festival, with 57 events including orchestral and choral music concerts (Michel Plasson, Gerd Albrecht are on the roster of conductors). Opera performances include "Sister" by the Dresden court composer Johann Adolf Hasse, as well as Donizetti's "Roberto Devereux," and Pais-

ello's "King Theodore in Venice." **ECHTERNACH, LUXEMBOURG**  
Festival International, tel: (352) 728-347, fax: 727-112, May 15 to July 8: Peter Schreier, tenor, sings Brahms' "Die Schöne Magelone." Mstislav Rostropovich appears in a Haydn, Boccherini and Rossini program, and Vladimir Ashkenazy leads the German Symphony Orchestra.

**FLORENCE, ITALY**  
Magello Musicale Fiorentino, tel: (39) 55-210-804, fax: 277-9410, (www.maga.it/magellofiorentino), May 3 to July 2: A program that features three operas: "Parsifal," conducted by Semyon Bychkov; "Turandot" (singing and costumes are Chinese) and "Arianna a Naxos," both conducted by Zubin Mehta; and several orchestral concerts with Wolfgang Sawallisch, Giuseppe Sinopoli and Mehta as guest conductors.

**GLYNDEBOURNE, ENGLAND**  
Glyndebourne Festival Opera, tel: (44) 01723-812-321, fax: 814688, May 18 to Aug. 24: New productions of Puccini's "Manon Lescaut," with conductor John Eliot Gardiner making his Glyndebourne debut with Graham Vick directing, and Rossini's "La Cenerentola," directed by Jerome Savary; Britten's "Owen Wingrave"; "Le Nozze di Figaro"; Janacek's "The Makropoulos Case"; and a revival of the 1996 Peter Sellars production of Handel's "Theodora."

**PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC**  
Prague Spring Festival, tel: (42) 2-532-474, fax: 536-040, May 5 to June 2: The four Brahms symphonies are interpreted by three conductors: Michio Mitsuoka with the Kyôto Symphony, Colin Davis with the London Symphony and Libor Pešek with the Prague Radio Symphony. Operas include "Jenufa," "Don Giovanni," "Lohengrin," and "Rosenkavalier."

**VIENNA, AUSTRIA**  
Wiener Festwochen, tel: (43) 1-589-2222, fax: 589-2249, (http://www.festwochen.orf.at), May 5 to June 22: Nicholas Harnoncourt conducts Schubert's romantic opera "Alfonso und Estrella" and Handel's "Alcina" and Riccardo Muti conducts "Così fan tutte." Also, concerts, piano recitals by Murray Perahia and Alfred Brendel and lieder recitals.

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HOLIDAYS  
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SECTION

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## Personals

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of Jesus and St. Jude  
for prayers answered. Amen

## Announcements

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## EAST: Bill for German Reunification Soars as Resentments Build

Continued from Page 1

dous waste of economic resources."

In Leipzig, one-third of the work force  
is unemployed, after accounting for govern-  
ment-financed make-work jobs and  
early-retirement programs. A third of the  
office space is vacant, including several of  
the fanciest new buildings. Local tax  
revenue accounts for just 10 percent of  
the city's \$2 billion annual budget.The only thing that keeps Eastern  
Germany afloat are the billions of marks  
handed out by Chancellor Helmut  
Kohl's government every year.All this is causing big problems not  
just for Germany but for Europe, too.  
Loaded with \$300 billion in debt related  
to the East, Germany as a whole is in  
danger of not being able to meet the  
fiscal requirements to qualify for the  
euro, the single European currency  
planned for 1999. But without Germany,  
there will be no euro in the near future,  
and that would upset the timetable on  
which Europe's political leaders have  
planned much of their hope for long-term  
economic recovery.The domestic repercussions are just as  
bad. Even as the 60 million West Ger-  
mans become angrier about paying a 7.5  
percent "solidarity" surtax for rebuilding  
the East, which has fewer than 20  
million people, Mr. Kohl is trying to cut  
health and retirement benefits to reduce  
the government's deficit.For all the excess, some argue that  
Germany will see a huge payoff from the  
Eastern spending spree if it waits a decade  
or more.But others contend that Eastern Ger-  
many combines the worst of two worlds:  
the bankrupt legacy of 45 years of Com-  
munist mismanagement and the rigidity  
that has jeopardized Western Germany's  
own ability to compete on the world  
market.To the government's chagrin, former  
Eastern bloc countries such as Poland,  
Hungary and the Czech Republic, which  
have received only a small fraction of the  
amount of aid Eastern Germany is get-  
ting, are growing more quickly and at-  
tracting considerable investment from  
Germany's companies. Those countries  
have also kept wages competitive and  
relied mostly on free-market forces  
since the collapse of the Soviet system."We blew it in East Germany," said  
Herbert Henzler, chairman of the German  
unit of McKinsey & Co., the consulting  
firm. "In terms of economic policy, we  
did almost everything wrong."Where did all the money go?  
In the view of many German econ-  
omists, it's not so much that the money  
was poured down a rat hole as that  
Eastern Germany's problems boiled down  
to one almost unbelievable statistic: Its  
average hourly wage has soared to more  
than \$16 an hour, actually slightly higher  
than in the United States.In a well-intentioned but damaging  
series of decisions in the early 1990s, the  
German government essentially imposed  
West Germany's entire structure of high  
wages and mandatory social benefits  
onto an economy that had collapsed.High labor costs are making it dif-  
ficult enough for Western Germany to  
compete in the global economy; for  
Eastern Germany, where the output per  
worker is only half as high, the wage  
situation is catastrophic."The economy here is comparable to  
that of a Third World country, or perhaps  
Spain or Portugal," said Joachim Rag-  
nitzer, an economist at the Halle Institute  
for Economics, but labor costs, he noted,  
are much lower in Spain and Portugal.The only East German business that  
has generated many jobs is the con-  
struction industry, which, thanks to lav-  
ish subsidies, employs about 17 percent  
of all workers in Eastern Germany — a  
share of the work force that is about three  
times as high as it is in most countries.  
But even that segment is now losing  
ground because of overbuilding.With too many high-priced workers  
chasing too few real jobs, the govern-  
ment has persuaded as many as 800,000  
people a year to leave the work force  
through generous early-retirement pro-  
grams. Several hundred thousand people  
are in training programs and 200,000  
more are in what officials candidly call  
make-work jobs.Germany was warned ahead of time  
about the potential for disaster."It was probably the single biggest  
mistake," said Guenter Thumann, an  
economist with Salomon Brothers who  
once worked in Germany's Ministry of  
Economics and at the International  
Monetary Fund. Mr. Thumann helpedwrite an IMF paper in 1990 that pleaded  
for Germany not to raise wages too  
quickly in the East."It was as if they read only the things  
we said they shouldn't do," Mr. Thum-  
mann said, "and then they did."Many say the German government  
had little choice politically. Unlike other  
former Soviet-bloc countries, East Ger-  
many was absorbed into the West vir-  
tually overnight. Its residents had been  
promised the full benefit of German  
citizenship, a promise crucial to their  
vote for reunification in 1990. If East  
German wages and benefits had re-  
mained far below those in West Ger-  
many, the most skilled residents that  
would have simply moved west."We are suffering today from de-  
cisions that were economically wrong  
but politically correct," Werner Patzelt,  
a professor of political science at  
Dresden Technical University, said. "If  
you had told East Germans that they  
should get reunited with West Germany  
but that they should only have one-third  
or one-half of their wages, reunification  
would never have happened."Nowhere is the East German job  
problem more vividly on display than in  
the monstrous and toxic chemical com-  
plex that Dow Chemical Corp. is taking  
over near the city of Schkopau.The complex looms over the sur-  
rounding farmland like a film noir vision  
of life after the apocalypse, with 50  
crumbling buildings ensnared by hun-  
dreds of miles of rusting, leaky pipe.  
Yet this site is the German government's  
biggest project aimed at rebuilding East  
Germany's industrial base.The government has pledged to spend  
\$7 billion tearing down 90 percent of the  
works, rebuilding it with the latest tech-  
nology and subsidizing its losses for  
several years. But while 18,000 people  
worked there before the Berlin Wall fell  
and 4,000 are working there now, Dow  
plans to employ no more than 2,200  
when the plant is restored. The cost per  
job: \$3.2 million.Analysts say the problem of high  
labor costs cannot be fixed quickly. "Do  
you keep pouring in more subsidies, or  
do you cut wages?" Mr. Thumann of  
Salomon Brothers asked. "You'd really  
have to cut wages, but politically that's  
impossible."

## REAL ESTATE MARKETPLACE

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20m pool, 20m x 20m pool, 20m x 20m  
pool, 20m x 20m pool, 20m x 20m pool.  
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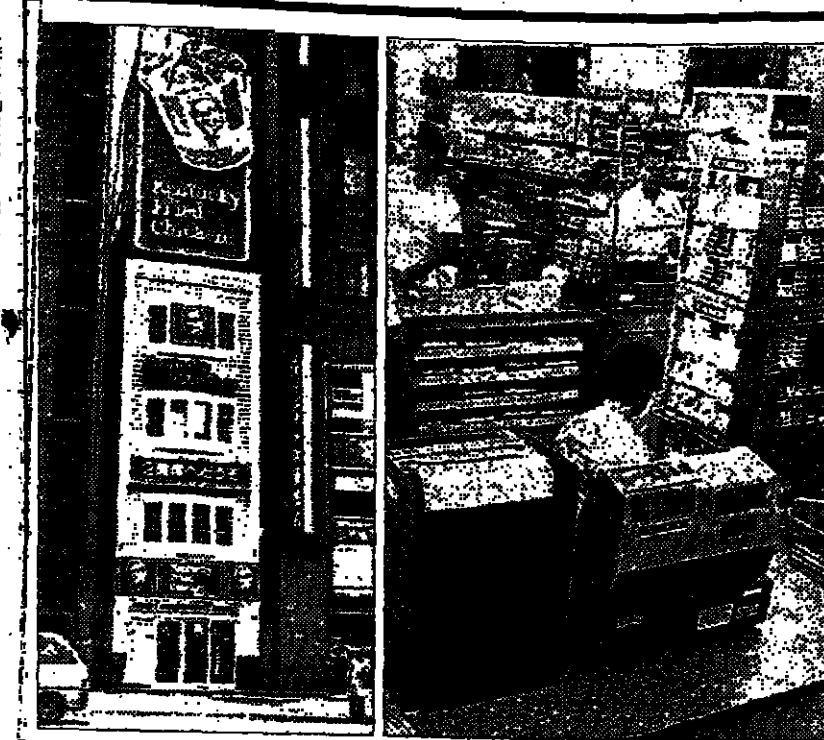


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FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 1997

PAGE 13



Leading Franchises
The largest franchises by number of U.S. and international units, as of September 1996.

McDonald's	1,000
7-Eleven	700
Subway	500
KFC	400
Burger King	300
Pizza Hut	250
Radio Shack	200
Century 21	150
Jani-King	100
Int'l Dairy Queen	50



Owner-parent relations in franchised businesses — such as this KFC in Tokyo, 7-Eleven in Michigan and McDonald's in Moscow — are changing.

Franchise Owners Strike Back at Parent Firms

By David Segal
WASHINGTON — Carvel Ice Cream Bakery store owners survived the onslaught of Grand Metropolitan PLC's Haagen-Dazs brand and the tied juggernaut of Ben & Jerry's Homemade Inc. But they started sweating when their corporate parent began selling its cartoon-inspired frozen cakes directly to supermarkets. "We were dropping like flies," said Stan Sicsinski, who owned a Carvel store in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, since 1976. "As many as 150 of the 600 stores across the country went right out of business." So a group of Carvel owners did something that would have been unheard of a decade ago: They pooled their resources and hired a \$250-an-hour lawyer to sue Carvel Ice Cream Bakery Inc., their Farmington, Connecticut, franchisor. The suit illustrates a momentous change in franchising, an industry that generates nearly \$1 trillion in annual revenue and employs 7 million people. For years, individuals have been sinking their savings into franchises, looking for six-figure salaries and a life without bosses. Evidence of their success is everywhere, as the retail landscape is dominated by the logos and storefronts of America's more than 2,000 franchised systems. But recently, thousands of investors have bitterly complained that companies have overstated the money-making potential of the stores, licensed too many in a certain area or bound owners to contracts that make profits impossible. Now, after years of fighting their battles alone, store owners with chains such as Little Caesar's, 7-Eleven, Dairy Queen, Meineke Mufflers and scores of others are banding together and fighting back. With war chests of as much as \$3 million, these groups are persuading a growing number of top-flight law firms — many of which formerly specialized in defending the opposition — to switch sides and sue on their behalf. The result is a dramatic balance-of-power shift. Store owners are negotiating with added clout, winning multimillion-dollar judgments against their parent companies and bargaining for the right to buy from suppliers of their own choosing. Meanwhile, a thriving legal niche has been born. "An individual franchisee might have a valid claim, but for years they came to you after they spent their last dollar in a business that was failing," said Keith Kanouse, a Boca Raton, Florida, attorney who took the Carvel store owners' case after years of working for franchisors. "Historically, attorneys worked for the 2,000 franchisors out there and basically ignored the country's 200,000 people who ran these small businesses." Shelling out for expensive legal advice has already paid off in several cases. In March, a judge in North Carolina ordered Meineke Muffler Discount Shops Inc. to pay \$601 million to a group of franchise owners, the largest judgment ever in a franchise case. A jury concluded that the company had fraudulently pocketed money from shop owners that had supposedly been earmarked for advertising. Meineke is appealing. In November, Mail Boxes Etc. paid close to \$5 million in cash and stock in an out-of-court settlement with 33 franchisees who had alleged that the company vastly overstated their chances of success. The company said it settled to avoid the cost of litigation and did not admit wrongdoing. Franchisors counter that they give mom-and-pop investors an unbeatable opportunity to sell a product with a proven track record and that most firms have strong relationships with their franchisees. "Many folks have become astoundingly wealthy through franchising," See FRANCHISES, Page 17

U.S. Court Links Unocal to Burma Rights Abuses

By Evelyn Iritani
LOS ANGELES — In a little-noticed ruling that could have enormous implications for U.S. companies operating abroad, a federal judge has held that Unocal Corp. can be held liable for human-rights abuses allegedly committed by the government of Burma. Legal and human-rights specialists say it was the first time a federal court had ruled that under international and U.S. law, U.S. companies could be liable for human-rights abuses committed by their partners in another country. "The implications are huge because it would vastly expand the jurisdiction of the U.S. court system," said Gary Hufbauer, a senior fellow with the Washington-based Institute for International Economics. Rights activists said a victory in this unusual civil case would put corporations on notice that they were answerable not only for their own overseas behavior but for that of the non-U.S. companies they align themselves with. "If Unocal would not engage in business with the Mafia in California, why should it engage in business with them?" asked John Bonifaz, referring to Burma's military government. Mr. Bonifaz is a human-rights lawyer involved in another suit against Unocal. Although it is being appealed, the ruling by U.S. District Judge Richard Paez of Los Angeles is considered a crucial victory for opponents of the government that has ruled Burma since 1988. Unocal is a partner with state-owned Myanmar Oil & Gas Enterprise in a controversial \$1.2 billion pipeline project. Unocal also pays the government to provide labor and security on the project. The judge also ruled that Unocal's private-sector partner, Total SA of France, could be held liable for Burma's actions as well. In denying Unocal's motion to dismiss a lawsuit by opponents of the repressive government, Judge Paez said Unocal's payments to military leaders for providing labor and security — in spite of widespread allegations of forced labor and abuse — would be akin to "participation in slave trading" if such abuses were proven in court. John Imle, president of Unocal, said the company would fight the "false allegations" in court. The company repeatedly has defended its role in Burma as being in the long-term best interests of the Burmese people. "I feel there are a lot of people out there trying to smear our image," Mr. Imle said.

China Opens Ports to Taiwan Shippers

TAIPEI — China gave six Taiwan shipping firms approval to sail direct to Taiwan from China routes for the first time in 48 years, reciprocating for similar permits issued by Taipei to five mainland carriers, the Taiwan Strait Shipping Association said Thursday. Executives said the crossings could begin in the next few days. But the new link will be limited. Cargoes delivered are only for transshipment to third countries, so Taiwan maintains that the links do not constitute direct shipping. Taiwan's Uniglo Marine Corp. and Yangming Marine Transport Corp. confirmed they had received approval. Beijing also issued approvals to Taiwan's Wan Hai Lines, Nantian Line, Chinese Maritime Transport Ltd. and Kien Hing Shipping. Taiwan had banned air, sea and postal links with China since the Nationalists fled to the island after losing the civil war to the Communists in 1949, and trade and travel go mainly through the British colony of Hong Kong. A political thaw that began in the late 1980s has unleashed a profusion of "indirect" links, including a total of about \$30 billion in mainland investments by some 30,000 Taiwan firms. Investors have pressed Taipei to ease its ban, saying direct sea, air and other links would pare what they see as needless extra costs of routing business through Hong Kong. Direct shipping would also fuel hopes for direct flights and other breakthroughs just when Taipei, wary of becoming dependent on its rival's economy, has been trying to cool local firms' interest in China investments. The approval Thursday by China's Transport Ministry was a long-awaited response to Taiwan's offer of limited shipping links across the Taiwan Strait to the Chinese shippers. Economics Minister Wang Chinkang said Taiwan regarded the approval as a goodwill gesture by Beijing after nearly two years of relations strained by President Lee Teng Hui's visit to the United States in June 1995. With the approval, the Taiwanese shippers will sail between Kaohsiung in southern Taiwan and the ports of Fuzhou and Xiamen in southern China as early as next week, the Taiwan Strait Shipping Association said. The association said it had been informed of the Chinese approval by its counterpart, the Association for Shipping Across the Taiwan Strait. China's Xiamen Shipping Co. will become the first ship to sail directly to Taiwan, with a freighter expected to arrive in Kaohsiung on Saturday, according to Taiwan newspapers. Taiwan proposed limited shipping links two years ago, but China ignored it as a result of its displeasure with Mr. Lee's visit to the United States. China had viewed that trip as an effort to break its diplomatic embargo of Taiwan. The approvals were issued on what Taiwan experts said was the final possible day under a mainland law mandating that Beijing act on such applications within 45 days of receiving them. (AP, Reuters)

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Table with multiple columns showing currency exchange rates and interest rates for various countries and financial instruments.

Trade Data Provide A Measure of Relief

In Japan, Buying Spree Cuts Surplus

TOKYO — The merchandise-trade surplus narrowed sharply in March, continuing a three-year slide, the Finance Ministry reported Thursday. But economists said the surplus was likely to expand through the rest of the year as exports to the United States and Asia surged. The Finance Ministry said the overall surplus narrowed 27 percent last month from a year earlier, to \$18.3 billion yen (\$6.47 billion). Exports rose 10.5 percent to 4.54 billion yen, while imports were up 24.4 percent at 3.72 billion yen, it said. That included increases in imports of chemicals, lumber, oil and other fuels. Economists said the large fall in the March surplus was due to a one-time jump in imports to satisfy strong consumer demand before Japan's sales tax was raised to 3 percent from 3 percent April 1. Apart from that one-time jump, they said, the trade surplus was clearly on a rising trend, with hefty increases expected in April, May and June — months that showed large declines last year. The ministry acknowledged that the decline in the surplus would slow in the next few months because demand for Japanese automobiles and the yen's depreciation against the dollar were swelling the trade imbalance with the United States. An economist from Tokyo Research Institute, Toshio Sumitani, said the March surplus was below his forecast of a trade imbalance of 1 trillion yen. "Crude-oil prices have fallen recently, so I did not expect strong imports," he said. Figures for the year that ended March 31, also released Thursday, showed that the surplus fell 30 percent from the year before, to 6.4 trillion yen. But the surplus with the United States, Japan's biggest trading partner, rose 11 percent year-on-year to 379.8 billion yen as exports rose 14.3 percent to 1.260 trillion yen. Economists said that Japan's surplus with the United States was again as thorny a political issue as it was in the early 1990s. Mr. Sumitani also said the continuing high level of exports to the United States was likely to continue to inflate the surplus in the coming months. "The pace of the movement in the trade surplus year-on-year is slowing," he said, "because of slowing exports to the Asian and European markets." The surplus with Asia shrank 17.9 percent to 635 billion yen, with exports up 7.6 percent at 1.922 trillion yen and imports rising 27 percent to 1.287 trillion yen. With the European Union, the trade surplus narrowed 39.2 percent, to 131 billion yen. Exports to EU countries rose 2.5 percent to 676 billion yen, with imports down 22.8 percent at \$45 billion yen. But Japan posted a trade deficit with China, saying the gap had more than quadrupled in March from a year earlier, backed by an abundant inflow of clothing imports. Economists said the trend was likely to continue because of China's low labor costs. Tokyo posted a deficit of 190.94 billion yen with China in March, a rise of 335.9 percent from a year earlier, according to the Finance Ministry. (Reuters, AFP, Bloomberg)

U.S. Deficit Shrank 8.5% In February

WASHINGTON — The trade deficit narrowed 8.5 percent in February as increased demand for civilian aircraft and chemicals helped push exports to a record high, offsetting a continuing flood of imports, the Commerce Department reported Thursday. The U.S. trade deficits with Japan and China both declined slightly in the month. The overall February deficit was \$11.6 billion, compared with a revised deficit of \$12.7 billion in January. The January figure was the largest monthly U.S. trade deficit since 1992. Exports of goods and services rose 4 percent, to \$73.5 billion. Imports set a record, climbing 2.1 percent to \$85.1 billion. On the export side, sales of U.S. civilian aircraft rose \$625 million, to \$1.7 billion. Other sizable gains were recorded in sales of telecommunications equipment, machinery, computer chips and chemicals. On the import side, demand for foreign cars and parts rose 2.4 percent, to \$12.3 billion, double the total of U.S. automotive exports. For February, the politically sensitive deficit with Japan narrowed 1 percent, to \$4.3 billion, but for the first two months of the year, the deficit was running 11 percent above deficit for the same period a year ago. The U.S. trade representative, Charlene Barshefsky, said Wednesday the rising deficit with Japan was a major concern and that President Bill Clinton would raise the issue when he met next week with Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto of Japan. America's oil imports were up 14 percent on a seasonally adjusted basis, to \$5.7 billion. The volume of oil imports climbed 12.4 percent as the price fell from an average of \$21.99 a barrel in January, the highest level since the Gulf War in 1991, to \$20.21 in February. Even with the February's improvement, the deficit for the year was running at an annual rate of \$143.6 billion, compared with \$114.3 billion for all of 1996, the worst U.S. deficit in eight years. Economists predict the deficit will widen this year as demand for imports rises and the strong dollar makes American goods more expensive abroad. "The strengthening dollar and weak economic performance in Europe should suppress export growth through the remainder of the year," analysts at NationsBank Corp. said. Imports, meanwhile, are likely to grow, reflecting the U.S. economy's strength. U.S. carmakers have appealed to Mr. Clinton's administration to do something to contain the dollar's rise as Japanese and other imports take an increasing share of the U.S. market. But Commerce Secretary William Daley chose to focus on the strong exports rather than on the import side, while warning that the government was concerned about the persistent deficits with Japan and China. "China remains the only major market in the world where U.S. exports are not growing, and this despite significant economic growth in China," Mr. Daley said. The deficit with China narrowed 9.6 percent to \$3.4 billion in February. But for the first two months of the year, it was up 37 percent from a year earlier. (AP, Bloomberg)

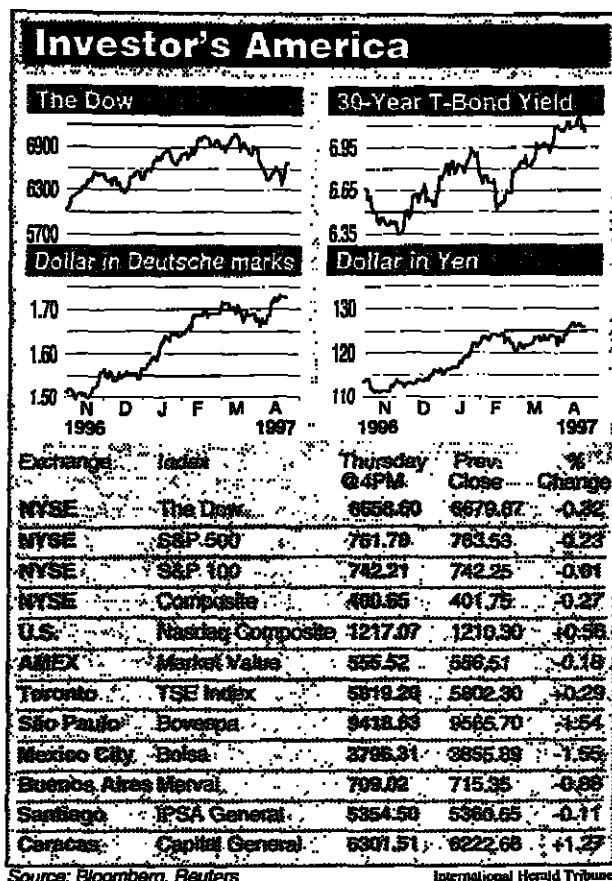
Thinking Ahead / Commentary

A Failure in Atlantic Communications

By Reginald Dale
WASHINGTON — Many Americans have difficulty understanding how the European Union works. They can generally be forgiven. Europeans often do not understand it either — and the Union's institutions have never been good at explaining themselves. Ignorance in the American policy-making community, however, is more serious. In Washington, only a handful of specialists know much about the EU, and very few of them are in government. This blind spot is particularly unfortunate when the economic and political map of Europe is being redrawn and vital U.S. interests are at stake. As Lamberto Dini, Italy's foreign minister, said recently, most Americans mistakenly see the EU "as a trading bloc and single market at best, and as a cumbersome regulatory bureaucracy at worst." That one-dimensional view, widely shared by the U.S. media, is the modern equivalent of believing that the American revolution two centuries ago was just about taxes. It is strange that Americans should fail to recognize a process of historical unification that in important ways — such as the debate over European federalism — so clearly echoes their own. In his State of the Union speech this year, President Bill Clinton shocked many Europeans by referring to European unification solely in terms of free and open Atlantic trade. That is too ambitious for now. Some important joint action can be taken on trade: Washington and the EU can combine to launch wider trade initiatives, to help integrate Russia and China into the world economy on the right terms and to dismantle practical barriers to trans-Atlantic commerce. But if the EU wants to be America's equal partner in a broader sense, it will have to show it means business by tackling the many challenges on its own agenda, including economic and monetary union, constitutional reform and eastward enlargement. Meanwhile, the political dialogue should be intensified with more frequent meetings at the ministerial level. The recent narrowing of differences over sanctions against Cuba and Iran is a good omen. Progress on Cuba was made easier because the United States employed an emissary, Stuart Eizenstat, a former ambassador in Brussels, who really understands the EU. Washington should find more like him. But the main onus in educating Americans lies on the EU. It will be difficult at a time when many U.S. policymakers are preoccupied with Asia and Latin America, and interest in foreign affairs is low. The best way for the EU to grab America's attention would be to introduce the planned single European currency on time in 1999. Then, for the first time, the Europeans would have an international power symbol — a potential rival to the dollar — that most Americans could understand.



## THE AMERICAS



## Very briefly:

## New York Times Profit Soars 58%

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Times Co. said Thursday its first-quarter net income rose 58 percent on higher advertising revenue and a 33 percent drop in newspaper costs.

Earnings rose to \$51.8 million, or 51 cents a share, from \$32.7 million, or 33 cents a share, a year earlier. Revenue rose 10 percent, to \$692.5 million from \$627.6 million.

In addition to The New York Times, the company publishes The Boston Globe, 21 regional papers and nine magazines and runs eight network-affiliated TV stations. It is a joint owner, with The Washington Post, of the International Herald Tribune.

## Andreas Cedes CEO Role at ADM

NEW YORK (IHT) — Dwayne Andreas, the chairman of Archer-Daniels-Midland Co., ceded the job of chief executive to his nephew, G. Allen Andreas, the company said, after a two-month search by the board for a successor. The elder Mr. Andreas will remain chairman.

Michael Andreas, son of Dwayne Andreas and a former deputy chairman, had been expected to take over the company, but he has been implicated in a price-fixing case and did not seek re-election to the board. He is scheduled to stand trial next year. In October, the company pleaded guilty to helping fix prices of lysine, an animal-food additive, and of citric acid, and it agreed to pay a \$100 million fine.

● Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. of India said it had won a \$22 million, four-year contract from Boeing Co. to supply structures for its passenger planes.

● Walt Disney Co.'s Hollywood Records said Bob Pfeiffer had resigned as president. The company is struggling to find its place in the rock music industry.

● Microsoft Network, the U.S. software giant's on-line service, shut down its worldwide electronic-mail computers until Sunday for unexpected maintenance.

AFP, Bloomberg, Reuters

## Apple Chief Sees a Rebound

The Associated Press

SAN JOSE, California — His company just lost more than \$700 million. So why is Gilbert Amelio in an upbeat mood?

Maybe it's because the head of Apple Computer Inc. thinks the worst of the company's troubles are over now that it has paid the huge bills for a sweeping reorganization and its purchase of Next Software Inc.

"A painful period, but it's behind us," Mr. Amelio said Wednesday, after the company posted its second-worst quarterly performance ever.

Apple had a loss of \$708 million in the quarter, including \$530 million in special charges. A year ago, the company posted a loss of \$740 million when it took an even bigger charge to pay for an earlier attempt at renewal. Revenue for the latest quarter dropped 27 percent, to \$1.6 billion from \$2.2 billion.

Apple reported its results after the market closed Wednesday. Its shares were up 43.75 cents at \$19 in late trading Thursday.

Mr. Amelio called the results disappointing but was confident that his strategy for turning Apple around was working. He said Apple had become more focused, cut expenses and introduced "dazzling" new computers.

Kevin House, an analyst with International Data Corp., said the new line was "by far one of the best they've had in a long time."

But he said Apple still faced daunting challenges: regaining the confidence of customers worried about Apple's future and persuading software developers to write programs for its new operating system, which is due out next year.

"Until people feel confident that Apple and the Macintosh are going to be around a year from now, they're going to have trouble," he said.

Apple's profit margin was 19 percent, the same as in the October-December quarter. The company had a \$420 million backlog in orders, more than usual even for this usually slow time of the year.

Its software subsidiary saw record revenue of \$70 million as Macintosh users bought an upgrade of the current operating system.

Apple's latest earnings report comes amid renewed speculation about a possible sale or takeover.

Larry Ellison, chairman of Oracle Corp., has said he is considering mounting a takeover bid. In an interview this week with Japan's Nihon Keizai Shimbun, he said that if he were to take over the company, he would turn it into a maker of network computers — stripped-down, appliance-like machines.

Mr. Amelio has dismissed Mr. Ellison's plans as "nonsense."

This month, Prince Walid bin Talal of Saudi Arabia said he had built up a 5 percent stake in Apple at a cost of \$115 million. As an investor, the prince is known for taking stakes in ailing companies that he thinks will regain their health.

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## Lucent Rebounds on Strong Sales

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MURRAY HILL, New Jersey — Lucent Technologies Inc. said Thursday it earned \$66 million in the first quarter, rebounding from a year-ago loss amid strong sales of wireless systems, software and switching systems.

The telecommunications equipment company posted a loss of \$103 million a year ago, when its spin-off from AT&T Corp. resulted in restructuring costs. Quarterly revenue rose to \$5.15 billion from \$4.58 billion.

On April 3, Lucent's chief financial officer, Donald Peterson, said he expected net income of \$55 to \$66 million, more than double analysts' consensus estimate at the time.

Lucent said revenue for systems for network operators rose 23.3 percent, to \$2.93 billion, microelectronics products rose 18.3 percent, to \$615 million and business communica-

tions systems were up 14.1 percent, to \$1.3 billion.

Revenue from consumer products decreased 41 percent, to \$174 million, which Lucent said was expected due to restructuring.

International revenue rose about 32 percent and represented about 25 percent of total revenue for the quarter. The results include higher sales of Lucent's SESS core carrier network switching systems and software in Japan.

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## Defending the Mighty Mark, Tietmeyer Deflates the Dollar

Bloomberg News

NEW YORK — The dollar fell against the Deutsche mark Thursday after the president of the Bundesbank said Germany did not want a weaker mark.

"We are not interested in a further weakening of the mark on international markets," Hans Tietmeyer said at a news conference. "We're interested in the Deutsche mark remaining a strong currency."

The central banker's remarks "took some air out of the sails of dollar buyers," John Hazelton, chief currency trader at Manufacturers & Traders Trust, said.

The dollar was slightly higher against the yen after the Commerce Department said the U.S. trade deficit narrowed in February.

In 4 P.M. trading in New York, the dollar was quoted at 1.7258 DM, down from 1.7288 DM on Wednesday. It edged up to 125.975 yen from 125.775 yen.

Mr. Tietmeyer's comments echo recent remarks by Japanese officials who bemoaned the weakening of their currency, prompting some selling of dollars.

Mr. Tietmeyer also said again that he opposed softening the requirements for the European Union's single currency. That renewed doubts that the currency, the euro, would be launched as planned in 1999, because many countries are in danger of exceeding the deficit limit of 3 percent of gross domestic product. Signs of a delay generally bolster the mark, Europe's benchmark currency.

"The more you talk about strict criteria, the more you realize EMU may not come together on time," said Mark Haber, a currency salesman at HSBC Midland Bank, which helps the mark and "takes some shine off the dollar."

Separately, the Bundesbank's chief economist, Oskar Issing, said it was too soon to say whether Germany would reduce its deficit enough to qualify. "Our financial situation at the beginning of the year was anything but good," he said, and tax revenue was lower than expected. Traders said the dollar may be restrained against the yen in the next few days on concern that leaders of the world's seven largest industrialized countries may try to put the brakes on its rise when they meet next week in Washington.

"The dollar may remain heavy up to the G-7 amid concern the U.S. and others will come out with a statement that is hawkish in tone," Mr. Haber said. The Group of Seven is made up of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.

Against other currencies, the dollar slipped to 5.8005 Swiss francs from 5.8120 francs and to 1.4635 Swiss francs from 1.4720 francs. The pound rose to \$1.6295 from \$1.6248.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE

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## INTERNATIONAL FUTURES

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## ***Bucharest Banks on Sell-Offs***

## Investor's Europe

Frankfurt DAX		London FTSE 100 index		Paris CAC 40	
3600	4650	2650			
3400	4500	2700			
3200	4350	2550			
3000	4200	2400			
2800	4050	2250			
2600	3900	2100			
N D J F M A	N D J F M A	N D J F M A			
1996	1996	1996			
N D J F M A	N D J F M A	N D J F M A			
1997	1997	1997			
Exchange	Index	Thursday Close	Prev. Close	% Change	
Amsterdam	AEX	739.63	729.56	+1.38	
Brussels	BEL-20	2,147.34	2,133.60	+0.64	
Frankfurt	DAX	3,383.25	3,353.45	+0.89	
Copenhagen	Stock Market	530.72	529.38	+0.25	
Helsinki	HEX General	2,807.36	2,787.16	+0.72	
Oslo	OBX	594.05	594.93	-0.15	
London	FTSE 100	4,298.90	4,294.60	+0.10	
Madrid	Stock Exchange	490.63	487.29	+0.69	
Milan	MBTEL	12332	12372	-0.32	
Paris	CAC 40	2,616.18	2,620.97	-0.22	
Stockholm	SX 16	2,844.89	2,850.85	-0.20	
Vienna	ATX	1,178.48	1,170.95	+0.73	
Zurich	SPI	2,952.25	2,927.32	+0.85	

Source: Telekurs International Media Data

## Peugeot Profit Tumbled 57% in '96

- **British Airways PLC** plans to sell its in-flight catering unit at London's Heathrow Airport, part of the airline's plan to cut £1 billion (\$1.6 billion) in costs over three years.
- **Norfolk Nickel AO** said 10,000 workers who had applied to leave their jobs would be let go this year and not be replaced, trimming the total work force by 8.3 percent as part of a restructuring plan.
- **Banco Bilbao Vizcaya SA**, one of Spain's largest commercial banks, said net profit in the first quarter rose 24.8 percent, to 24.7 billion pesetas (\$169.8 million), helped by growing revenue from Latin American operations.
- **British Airways PLC** Chief Executive Bob Ayling said he was "in the market" for the A3XX, Airbus Industrie's project for an exceptionally large plane model.
- **Novartis AG** said first-quarter sales rose 22 percent from a year ago, to 8.2 billion Swiss francs (\$5.6 billion), and sales in local currencies rose a greater-than-expected 8 percent.
- **House of Fraser PLC** posted a pretax loss of £38.4 million (\$62.5 million) in the year ended Jan. 25, compared with a profit of £14.3 million a year ago, as the retailer took a one-time charge to shed stock, staff and stores.
- **Newtelco AG**, a venture set up to function as Switzerland's second telecommunications company, has been cleared to operate by the European Commission.

*Bloomberg, Reuters, AFP*

## ***Elf and Total Plan to Buy Back Shares***

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WORLD STOCK MARKETS	High	Low	Close	Prev.	The Trib Index	Level	Change	% change	year to date % change								
Thursday, April 17					Jan. 1, 1992 = 100.												
Prices in local currencies.					World Index												
Tendings					Regional Indices												
High Low Close Prev.					Asia/Pacific												
Amsterdam					Europe												
ABN-AMRO	126.90	126.90	126.90		N. America	171.84	+1.05	+0.61	+6.13								
Alcoa	135.40	135.40	135.40		S. America	140.39	-1.08	-0.76	+22.69								
Alcon	264.50	264.50	264.50		Industrial Indices												
Alcon	264.50	264.50	264.50		Capital goods	175.62	+1.38	+0.79	+2.75								
Alcon	264.50	264.50	264.50		Consumer goods	171.15	+0.72	+0.42	+6.02								
Alcon	264.50	264.50	264.50		Energy	174.21	+0.97	+0.56	+2.05								
Alcon	264.50	264.50	264.50		Finance	106.96	+1.07	+1.01	-8.16								
Alcon	264.50	264.50	264.50		Miscellaneous	152.82	+0.22	+1.14	-5.54								
Alcon	264.50	264.50	264.50		Raw Materials	178.19	+0.96	+0.54	+1.80								
Alcon	264.50	264.50	264.50		Utilities	141.40	+0.13	+0.09	+2.97								
Alcon	264.50	264.50	264.50		Services	139.24	+0.11	+0.47	-9.22								
Alcon	264.50	264.50	264.50		The International Herald Tribune World Stock Index tracks the U.S. dollar value of 250 internationally investable stocks from 25 countries. For more information, a fee schedule is available by writing to The Trib Index, 187 Avenue Charles de Gaulle, 92021 Marnes La Coquette, France.												
Alcon	264.50	264.50	264.50		Compiled by Bloomberg News.												
Paris					Sydney												
ACCOR	893	887	889		ANZ	8.25											
Alcatel	190	190	190		AMP	7.50											
Alcatel	190	190	190		BHP	17.34											
Alcatel	190	190	190		BHP	17.34											
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Alcatel	190	190	190		BHP	17.34											
Alcatel	190	190	190		BHP	17.3											



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[illegible]

7/12	7/11	7/10	7/9	7/8	7/7	7/6	7/5	7/4	7/3	7/2	7/1	6/30	6/29	6/28	6/27	6/26	6/25	6/24	6/23	6/22	6/21	6/20	6/19	6/18	6/17	6/16	6/15	6/14	6/13	6/12	6/11	6/10	6/9	6/8	6/7	6/6	6/5	6/4	6/3	6/2	6/1	5/31	5/30	5/29	5/28	5/27	5/26	5/25	5/24	5/23	5/22	5/21	5/20	5/19	5/18	5/17	5/16	5/15	5/14	5/13	5/12	5/11	5/10	5/9	5/8	5/7	5/6	5/5	5/4	5/3	5/2	5/1	4/30	4/29	4/28	4/27	4/26	4/25	4/24	4/23	4/22	4/21	4/20	4/19	4/18	4/17	4/16	4/15	4/14	4/13	4/12	4/11	4/10	4/9	4/8	4/7	4/6	4/5	4/4	4/3	4/2	4/1	3/31	3/30	3/29	3/28	3/27	3/26	3/25	3/24	3/23	3/22	3/21	3/20	3/19	3/18	3/17	3/16	3/15	3/14	3/13	3/12	3/11	3/10	3/9	3/8	3/7	3/6	3/5	3/4	3/3	3/2	3/1	2/28	2/27	2/26	2/25	2/24	2/23	2/22	2/21	2/20	2/19	2/18	2/17	2/16	2/15	2/14	2/13	2/12	2/11	2/10	2/9	2/8	2/7	2/6	2/5	2/4	2/3	2/2	2/1	1/31	1/30	1/29	1/28	1/27	1/26	1/25	1/24	1/23	1/22	1/21	1/20	1/19	1/18	1/17	1/16	1/15	1/14	1/13	1/12	1/11	1/10	1/9	1/8	1/7	1/6	1/5	1/4	1/3	1/2	1/1	12/31	12/30	12/29	12/28	12/27	12/26	12/25	12/24	12/23	12/22	12/21	12/20	12/19	12/18	12/17	12/16	12/15	12/14	12/13	12/12	12/11	12/10	12/9	12/8	12/7	12/6	12/5	12/4	12/3	12/2	12/1	11/30	11/29	11/28	11/27	11/26	11/25	11/24	11/23	11/22	11/21	11/20	11/19	11/18	11/17	11/16	11/15	11/14	11/13	11/12	11/11	11/10	11/9	11/8	11/7	11/6	11/5	11/4	11/3	11/2	11/1	10/31	10/30	10/29	10/28	10/27	10/26	10/25	10/24	10/23	10/22	10/21	10/20	10/19	10/18	10/17	10/16	10/15	10/14	10/13	10/12	10/11	10/10	10/9	10/8	10/7	10/6	10/5	10/4	10/3	10/2	10/1	9/30	9/29	9/28	9/27	9/26	9/25	9/24	9/23	9/22	9/21	9/20	9/19	9/18	9/17	9/16	9/15	9/14	9/13	9/12	9/11	9/10	9/9	9/8	9/7	9/6	9/5	9/4	9/3	9/2	9/1	8/31	8/30	8/29	8/28	8/27	8/26	8/25	8/24	8/23	8/22	8/21	8/20	8/19	8/18	8/17	8/16	8/15	8/14	8/13	8/12	8/11	8/10	8/9	8/8	8/7	8/6	8/5	8/4	8/3	8/2	8/1	7/31	7/30	7/29	7/28	7/27	7/26	7/25	7/24	7/23	7/22	7/21	7/20	7/19	7/18	7/17	7/16	7/15	7/14	7/13	7/12	7/11	7/10	7/9	7/8	7/7	7/6	7/5	7/4	7/3	7/2	7/1	6/30	6/29	6/28	6/27	6/26	6/25	6/24	6/23	6/22	6/21	6/20	6/19	6/18	6/17	6/16	6/15	6/14	6/13	6/12	6/11	6/10	6/9	6/8	6/7	6/6	6/5	6/4	6/3	6/2	6/1	5/31	5/30	5/29	5/28	5/27	5/26	5/25	5/24	5/23	5/22	5/21	5/20	5/19	5/18	5/17	5/16	5/15	5/14	5/13	5/12	5/11	5/10	5/9	5/8	5/7	5/6	5/5	5/4	5/3	5/2	5/1	4/30	4/29	4/28	4/27	4/26	4/25	4/24	4/23	4/22	4/21	4/20	4/19	4/18	4/17	4/16	4/15	4/14	4/13	4/12	4/11	4/10	4/9	4/8	4/7	4/6	4/5	4/4	4/3	4/2	4/1	3/31	3/30	3/29	3/28	3/27	3/26	3/25	3/24	3/23	3/22	3/21	3/20	3/19	3/18	3/17	3/16	3/15	3/14	3/13	3/12	3/11	3/10	3/9	3/8	3/7	3/6	3/5	3/4	3/3	3/2	3/1	2/28	2/27	2/26	2/25	2/24	2/23	2/22	2/21	2/20	2/19	2/18	2/17	2/16	2/15	2/14	2/13	2/12	2/11	2/10	2/9	2/8	2/7	2/6	2/5	2/4	2/3	2/2	2/1	1/31	1/30	1/29	1/28	1/27	1/26	1/25	1/24	1/23	1/22	1/21	1/20	1/19	1/18	1/17	1/16	1/15	1/14	1/13	1/12	1/11	1/10	1/9	1/8	1/7	1/6	1/5	1/4	1/3	1/2	1/1	12/31	12/30	12/29	12/28	12/27	12/26	12/25	12/24	12/23	12/22	12/21	12/20	12/19	12/18	12/17	12/16	12/15	12/14	12/13	12/12	12/11	12/10	12/9	12/8	12/7	12/6	12/5	12/4	12/3	12/2	12/1	11/30	11/29	11/28	11/27	11/26	11/25	11/24	11/23	11/22	11/21	11/20	11/19	11/18	11/17	11/16	11/15	11/14	11/13	11/12	11/11	11/10	11/9	11/8	11/7	11/6	11/5	11/4	11/3	11/2	11/1	10/31	10/30	10/29	10/28	10/27	10/26	10/25	10/24	10/23	10/22	10/21	10/20	10/19	10/18	10/17	10/16	10/15	10/14	10/13	10/12	10/11	10/10	10/9	10/8	10/7	10/6	10/5	10/4	10/3	10/2	10/1	9/30	9/29	9/28	9/27	9/26	9/25	9/24	9/23	9/22	9/21	9/20	9/19	9/18	9/17	9/16	9/15	9/14	9/13	9/12	9/11	9/10	9/9	9/8	9/7	9/6	9/5	9/4	9/3	9/2	9/1	8/31	8/30	8/29	8/28	8/27	8/26	8/25	8/24	8/23	8/22	8/21	8/20	8/19	8/18	8/17	8/16	8/15	8/14	8/13	8/12	8/11	8/10	8/9	8/8	8/7	8/6	8/5	8/4	8/3	8/2	8/1	7/31	7/30	7/29	7/28	7/27	7/26	7/25	7/24	7/23	7/22	7/21	7/20	7/19	7/18	7/17	7/16	7/15	7/14	7/13	7/12	7/11	7/10	7/9	7/8	7/7	7/6	7/5	7/4	7/3	7/2	7/1	6/30	6/29	6/28	6/27	6/26	6/25	6/24	6/23	6/22	6/21	6/20	6/19	6/18	6/17	6/16	6/15	6/14	6/13	6/12	6/11	6/10	6/9	6/8	6/7	6/6	6/5	6/4	6/3	6/2	6/1	5/31	5/30	5/29	5/28	5/27	5/26	5/25	5/24	5/23	5/22	5/21	5/20	5/19	5/18	5/17	5/16	5/15	5/14	5/13	5/12	5/11	5/10	5/9	5/8	5/7	5/6	5/5	5/4	5/3	5/2	5/1	4/30	4/29	4/28	4/27	4/26	4/25	4/24	4/23	4/22	4/21	4/20	4/19	4/18	4/17	4/16	4/15	4/14	4/13	4/12	4/11	4/10	4/9	4/8	4/7	4/6	4/5	4/4	4/3	4/2	4/1	3/31	3/30	3/29	3/28	3/27	3/26	3/25	3/24	3/23	3/22	3/21	3/20	3/19	3/18	3/17	3/16	3/15	3/14	3/13	3/12	3/11	3/10	3/9	3/8	3/7	3/6	3/5	3/4	3/3	3/2	3/1	2/28	2/27	2/26	2/25	2/24	2/23	2/22	2/21	2/20	2/19	2/18	2/17	2/16	2/15	2/14	2/13	2/12	2/11	2/10	2/9	2/8	2/7	2/6	2/5	2/4	2/3	2/2	2/1	1/31	1/30	1/29	1/28	1/27	1/26	1/25	1/24	1/23	1/22	1/21	1/20	1/19	1/18	1/17	1/16	1/15	1/14	1/13	1/12	1/11	1/10	1/9	1/8	1/7	1/6	1/5	1/4	1/3	1/2	1/1	12/31	12/30	12/29	12/28	12/27	12/26	12/25	12/24	12/23	12/22	12/21	12/20	12/19	12/18	12/17	12/16	12/15	12/14	12/13	12/12	12/11	12/10	12/9	12/8	12/7	12/6	12/5	12/4	12/3	12/2	12/1	11/30	11/29	11/28	11/27	11/26	11/25	11/24	11/23	11/22	11/21	11/20	11/19	11/18	11/17	11/16	11/15	11/14	11/13	11/12	11/11	11/10	11/9	11/8	11/7	11/6	11/5	11/4	11/3	11/2	11/1	10/31	10/30	10/29	10/28	10/27	10/26	10/25	10/24	10/23	10/22	10/21	10/20	10/19	10/18	10/17	10/16	10/15	10/14	10/13	10/12	10/11	10/10	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[illegible]

1. 本會為維護會員權益，特訂定本會章程，凡加入本會者，均須遵守。  
 2. 本會之宗旨，在於促進會員間之交流與合作，共同發展。  
 3. 本會之組織，由會員大會、理事會及監事會組成。  
 4. 本會之經費，由會員繳納之會費及社會捐助組成。  
 5. 本會之活動，包括學術研討、文化講座及社會服務等。  
 6. 本會之榮譽，由理事會頒發，以表彰對社會有貢獻之會員。  
 7. 本會之修改，須經會員大會三分之二以上多數通過。  
 8. 本會之解散，須經會員大會三分之二以上多數通過。  
 9. 本會之章程，自公布之日起施行。  
 10. 本會之章程，如有修改，應經會員大會通過。

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ASIA/PACIFIC

# Study Finds Flaws And Shoddy Work On Seoul's TGV Line

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SEOUL — A \$12 billion high-speed train line being built in South Korea was found to be riddled with design flaws and shoddy work, casting doubt over the safety record of the country's construction industry, a study released Thursday said.

The Korea High-Speed Rail Construction Authority said a study it had commissioned found that one-fifth of a 61-kilometer (38-mile) section of the line between Seoul and Taejeon was defective.

South Korea has chosen France's high-speed Train a Grande Vitesse vehicles for the 412-kilometer link between Seoul and the southern city of Pusan. The trains are made by GEC Alsthom, a 50-50 joint venture of Alcatel Alsthom of France and General Electric Co. of Britain.

The authority generally blamed poor construction work and a lack of technical expertise for the problems. But it said more information was needed before the authority, architects and builders could assign specific responsibility.

The study, by Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates Inc. of the United States, found that 21.3 percent of the inspected segment of the project was defective and in need of reconstruction or repair, the authority said.

It found that 3.8 percent of the work required reconstruction, 17.5 percent needed renovation and a large portion had features missing.

The authority added that five of 37 bridges examined had "long-term structural and safety problems" and might need to be rebuilt.

The commission said the construction companies involved in the bridge and tunnel work that was reviewed were all South Korean ones. They included Hella Engineering & Construction Co., Hyundai Industrial Development & Construction Co. and Daewoo Corp.

They will be ordered to reconstruct or repair the faulty bridge spans, foundations and culverts, the commission said.

The disclosure of the construction study's findings prompted the government to start an investigation into the matter and triggered a slide in construction stocks traded in Seoul.

The South Korea stock market's construction-sector index fell 2.98 percent, to 270.36 points, compared with a drop of 1.09 percent in the broader market's composite index.

Analysts said repairs on the project could cost hundreds of billions of won and that investors feared this could hurt the profits of the companies involved.

"It's too early to say how much the financial costs will be, but this is absolutely bad news in terms of image," Park Hong Kyu, an analyst at BZW Securities, said.

But a spokesman for the construction authority said the schedule for building the rail link would not be affected.

About 20 percent of the rail link has been built since construction began in 1992. The link is scheduled for completion by 2001, but the project already has been troubled by cost overruns and protests over plans to build near historic sites.

(Reuters, Bloomberg, AFP)

## Taipei to Sell \$10 Billion In State Assets

Agence France-Presse

TAIPEI — Taiwan plans to sell 280 billion Taiwan dollars (\$10.4 billion) worth of shares in eight government-run banks and enterprises in coming years, officials said Thursday.

As part of its privatization drive, Taipei is selling 64.1 billion shares in six banking institutions, and in two firms, China Steel Corp. and Chinese Petroleum Corp. The government has been pushing for the sale to reduce debt and improve management of the companies.

But analysts said the sales would also depress the stock market, and were seen as a government effort to curb speculation in the bourse.

The Finance Ministry and the central bank have been taking measures to curb speculation in the market, which has gained 22 percent this year. Since late February, the ministry has been tightening procedures on loans, while the central bank has been siphoning what it sees as excessive liquidity from the banking system.

# Pyongyang Signals to ADB

## Aid Agency Says North Korea Seeks Talks on Joining

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SEOUL — North Korea may begin talks this year on membership in the Asian Development Bank, which offers cheap loans to the region's poorest nations, a spokesman for the bank said Thursday.

"The bank has received indications North Korea is interested in commencing a dialogue with a view to becoming a member of the ADB," the spokesman, Robert Salomon, said as the bank released its annual outlook report.

North Korea is desperate for foreign capital to try to revive its Stalinist economy, which has been in ruins since the collapse of the Soviet Union robbed the country of a major source of aid and investment.

According to South Korea figures, North Korea's foreign debt exceeds \$10 billion. It stopped paying interest on that debt in 1984.

North Korea applied for membership in the Manila-based institution in 1992, but the bank decided its entry bid then was premature.

The institution also issued in-

dividual studies of more than two dozen countries in its annual outlook report.

The report, which also projects short-term economic trends in the region, called on South Korea to make major policy changes to adjust to a new relationship with the rest of the world economy.

"Although various measures have already been implemented, additional steps are required to achieve full financial and trade liberalization," the bank said.

South Korea's membership in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development is expected to accelerate adoption of policies to restructure the economy, it said.

To minimize the short-term costs of trade liberalization, the bank said, South Korea needs greater flexibility in its labor market. The bank noted that government efforts to enact labor reforms had led to unrest.

Growth in South Korea's gross domestic product is expected to

fall to 6.3 percent in 1997 from 7.0 percent last year, then to recover to 6.9 percent in 1998, it said.

The bank attributed this year's decline to sluggish investments and a slowdown in exports.

In its report, the bank said Asia was the world's fastest-growing region last year and that its growth, though slowing, should remain strong this year and next.

"Despite major shocks both internal and external, the Asian economies as a group and individually continued to perform in a very robust manner," Vishvanath Desai, the bank's chief economist, said.

Growth in the region slowed to 7.4 percent in 1996 from 8.2 percent the previous year and is expected to stabilize at about 7.4 percent in 1997 and 1998, the bank said.

But the bank warned that Asia's dazzling growth should not blind the world to the poverty that still plagued large parts of the region.

"Poverty-reduction is a major strategic objective of the ADB," Mr. Salomon said. (Reuters, AFP)

# Profit Outlook Lifts China Shares

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SHANGHAI — Chinese stocks that are available to foreign investors surged to their highest levels of the year Thursday on hopes for rising corporate earnings and continued low inflation.

The Shanghai stock exchange's index of these so-called B shares rose 7.2 percent, to 82.39 points. In Shenzhen, the B-share index jumped 8.6 percent, to 174.64.

But government officials warned against speculation in the markets

and called for tougher regulations.

"In view of the emerging but immature Chinese securities market, the task of establishing a complete legal framework becomes all the more urgent," Bian Yaowu of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress said. He called for "severe" penalties for insider trading and price manipulation.

Zhou Zhengqiang, the chairman of the Securities Committee of the State Council, lauded the effectiveness of the markets in turning China

into a more open economy.

The stock exchanges that opened in 1990 in Shanghai and Shenzhen have "played a positive role in pooling funds, transforming the operating mechanism of Chinese enterprises and optimizing the distribution of resources," he said.

"Inflation is lower, and corporate profits are improving," Zhao Xiaoyun, a fund manager at China Guotai Securities, said. "There's no reason why shares shouldn't be rising." (Bloomberg, AFP)

# A U.S.-Vietnam Copyright Pact

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

HANOI — Vietnam and the United States have signed a bilateral copyright treaty, officials at the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi said Thursday.

The officials said the agreement would mean that U.S. copyright owners would have legal protection against piracy in Vietnam for the first time, while Vietnamese authors and producers would have similar protection in the United States.

The International Intellectual Property Alliance welcomed the treaty on behalf of U.S. copyright industries,

saying it meant Vietnam would have to bring its copyright laws and enforcement practices closer to world standards and treat U.S. and local copyright owners equally.

The group, a coalition of associations representing U.S. copyright-based industries, said piracy of copyright materials such as movies and software in Vietnam was inflicting over \$50 million in trade losses annually and threatening U.S. export potential to one of the world's fastest-growing markets.

Hanoi and Washington normalized diplomatic ties in 1995, without a full trade agreement. (Reuters, AFP)

## Investor's Asia

Hong Kong Hang Seng	Singapore Straits Times	Tokyo Nikkei 225
14000	2250	22000
13500	2200	21000
13000	2150	20000
12500	2100	19000
12000	2050	18000
11500	2000	17000
11000	1950	16000
10500	1900	15000
10000	1850	14000
9500	1800	13000
9000	1750	12000
8500	1700	11000
8000	1650	10000
7500	1600	9000
7000	1550	8000
6500	1500	7000
6000	1450	6000
5500	1400	5000
5000	1350	4000
4500	1300	3000
4000	1250	2000
3500	1200	1000
3000	1150	0
2500	1100	0
2000	1050	0
1500	1000	0
1000	950	0
500	900	0
0	850	0

## Very briefly:

- Hanbo Group, which collapsed in January, defaulted on 1 trillion won (\$1.12 billion) of debt. South Korea's bank supervisory office reported. Shares of Korea First Bank, a major Hanbo creditor, dropped 4 percent, to 3,370 won.
- Mitsui Marine & Fire Insurance Co. is considering swapping loans to Nippon Credit Bank Ltd. for new shares in the bank. The bank has urged insurance companies to convert subordinated loans to new shares as it attempts to restructure.
- Seven-Eleven Japan Co. said current, or pretax, profit for the year ended Feb. 28 rose 7 percent, to a record 105.15 billion yen (\$832.2 million), buoyed by the introduction of video-game sales. Revenue rose 10 percent, to 254.62 billion yen.
- Softbank Corp.'s president, Masayoshi Son, said Sony Corp. was expected to participate in the satellite broadcasting venture Japan Sky Broadcasting on an equal basis with Softbank and News Corp.
- Asia's Emerging Dragon Corp., a Philippine company owned by Lucio Tan and five other wealthy businessmen, has asked a court to nullify the government's award of a \$350 million contract for a new airport terminal in Manila to People's Air Cargo & Warehousing Co., arguing that the company failed to meet the financial requirements for bidding.
- China said the United States would suffer along with China if Washington failed to renew Beijing's most-favored-nation trading status. Newt Gingrich, the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, recently proposed that the government renew the status for only six months at a time instead of a year.
- Shinawatra Satellite Co.'s Thaicom 3, which will provide voice, data and video services throughout Asia, was launched into orbit by the European company ArianeSpace. The same rocket also launched a BSAT-1a satellite for a consortium of Japanese broadcasters. The Asia-Pacific region provides more than a third of ArianeSpace's business.
- Intel Corp. will double its investment in assembly and test operations in Asia over the next two years; it did not give a specific figure. The chipmaker also forecast flat to slightly higher revenue from Asia for the rest of this year.

Bloomberg, AFP, Reuters

## FRANCHISES: Store Owners Fight Back at Parent Companies

Continued from Page 13

said James Amos, Mail Boxes Etc. president. "We deliver a brand name and a logo and expertise so you don't have to reinvent the wheel when you start up."

Others lay the blame for this burst of litigation on overzealous lawyers looking to cash in. "Let's face it, lawyers are aggressive about themselves, and many of them are fostering an atmosphere in which associations are encouraged to say, 'Let's not have a conversation; let's have a lawsuit,'" said Matthew Shay, a spokesman for the International Franchise Association.

"The wars should be between franchisees and other competitors, not within systems."

Without question, franchising has retained its enormous popularity. A new store opens every eight minutes, and the industry gave birth to 170,000 jobs in the past six months, according to the International Franchise Association, a Washington-based trade group.

McDonald's Corp., Subway and Snap-on Tools Corp. are among the fastest-growing chains.

Still, franchisees are organizing to enhance their negotiating muscle. Since 1992, membership in the American Association of Franchisees & Dealers of San Diego, for example, has grown from 20 to 6,000, while the number of associations of franchise owners has nearly doubled to 250.

"Our goal is that for every franchise system that exists, there will be a franchisee association that has real leverage," Bob Purvin, the association's president, said.

To academics who study the subject, franchise owners

are simply leveling a playing field that for years was disastrously tilted against them.

"Contracts in this business were terribly one-sided," Ann Dugan, a business professor at the University of Pittsburgh, said. "Companies would promise franchisees all this support when they signed up, but none of those promises were in the contracts, and many weren't kept."

Franchisees also typically left themselves leeway to license new stores near ones that already were up and running — encroaching, in legal parlance — which can spell doom for both stores, Ms. Dugan said.

Worse, many investors do not realize that their chances of earning big money are tiny. Although high-quality operations such as McDonald's have created plenty of millionaires, Ms. Dugan estimates that after paying off all the equipment and being in business for three to five years, a successful franchisee can expect an annual salary of about \$35,000. Many others work for free or make only the minimum wage.

The reason: Profit margins in franchised products, such as food and services, are typically razor-thin, and there are high up-front and ongoing expenses — as much as \$100,000 in fees to get started

and a royalty rate as high as 12 percent of gross sales, paid annually to the franchisor.

Franchisees also frequently must buy supplies and equipment from sources that charge higher-than-average prices. Some Little Caesars units, for instance, have demanded the right to

buy pizza boxes wherever they like, arguing that buying from the sole company-approved supplier was wrecking their profits.

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Shareholders are hereby convened to attend the Statutory General Meeting of the Shareholders, which will take place at the company's registered office in Luxembourg on April 30th, 1997 at 14:00 for the purpose of considering and voting upon the following points:

**AGENDA OF THE STATUTORY GENERAL MEETING**

1. Reports of the Board of Directors and of the Independent Auditor.
2. Approval of the Financial Statements made-up as of December 31, 1996.
3. Discharge to the Directors and to the Independent Auditor.
4. Statutory Appointments.
5. Miscellaneous.

Resolutions on the agenda of the Statutory General Meeting will require no quorum and will be taken at the majority of the votes expressed by the shareholders present or represented.

Shareholders who cannot attend the meeting are invited to send a proxy to the registered office to arrive not later than April 25, 1997. Proxy forms will be sent to registered shareholders. Proxy forms may also be obtained from the registered office.

The owners of bearer shares will have to deposit their shares five clear days before the meeting at either:

- BANQUE PARISIENNE (LUXEMBOURG) S.A.  
26, avenue Moncey, L-2163 Luxembourg
- FIDUCIARIE LUXEMBOURG & CIE S.A.  
15, rue Peitrot, C11-1211 Genève 11
- SWISS BANK CORPORATION  
One Exchange Square, 25th floor, 8, Connaught Place, Hong Kong

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**ASIAN CAPITAL HOLDINGS FUND**  
31, Boulevard Emmanuel Servais, L-2335 Luxembourg  
R.C. Luxembourg B 43 100

**NOTICE TO THE SHAREHOLDERS**

Notice is hereby given that an Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of ASIAN CAPITAL HOLDINGS FUND will be held at the registered office of the Company on 28 April 1997 at 3.30 p.m.

**AGENDA**

1. Approval of the report of the Board of Directors and the report of the Auditor;
2. Approval of the financial statements for the year ending on 31 December 1996;
3. Retirement of the outgoing Directors and the Auditor from their duties for the year ending on 31 December 1996;
4. Appointment of the Directors and the Auditor of the Fund:  
- Re-election of the Directors;  
- Re-election of the Auditor;
5. Any other business.

Resolutions of the shareholders will be passed by a simple majority of those present and voting and each share is entitled to one vote.

A shareholder may act at any meeting by proxy.

On behalf of the Company,  
**BANQUE DE GESTION EDMOND DE ROTHSCHILD LUXEMBOURG**  
- Société Anonyme -  
20, Boulevard Emmanuel Servais  
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**AVIS AUX ACTIONNAIRES**

Messieurs les actionnaires sont convoqués par le présent avis à l'ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE ORDINAIRE DES ACTIONNAIRES

qui se tiendra au siège social à Luxembourg le 28 avril 1997 à 15h30, avec l'ordre du jour suivant:

**ORDRE DU JOUR**

1. Compte Rendu d'activité du Conseil d'Administration pour l'exercice se terminant le 31 décembre 1996.
2. Rapport du Réviseur d'Entreprises pour l'exercice se terminant le 31 décembre 1996;
3. Adoption des comptes de l'exercice se terminant le 31 décembre 1996;
4. Affectation du résultat de l'exercice se terminant le 31 décembre 1996;
5. Ratification de la cooptation de LA COMPAGNIE FINANCIERE EDMOND DE ROTHSCHILD BANQUE, représentée par Monsieur Roger CUKIERMAN, en remplacement de Monsieur Donat BRANGER et de Monsieur Samuel PINTO en remplacement de Monsieur Olivier MALMUS;
6. Décharge aux Administrateurs et au Réviseur d'Entreprises pour l'exercice se terminant le 31 décembre 1996;
7. Nomination des organes sociaux:  
- Nomination des Administrateurs;  
- Nomination du Réviseur d'Entreprises;
8. Divers.

Les actionnaires sont informés qu'un quorum n'est requis pour cette assemblée et que les décisions sont prises à la majorité simple des actions présentes ou représentées.

Chaque action a un droit de vote.

Tout actionnaire peut voter par mandataire. A cette fin, des procurations sont disponibles au siège social et seront envoyées aux actionnaires sur demande.

Afin d'être valable, les procurations dûment signées par les actionnaires devront être envoyées au siège social afin d'être reçues le jour précédant l'assemblée à 17 heures au plus tard.

Les propriétaires d'actions au porteur, désirant participer à cette assemblée, devront déposer leurs actions cinq jours ouvrables avant l'assemblée au siège social de la société.

Les actionnaires désireux d'obtenir le Rapport Annuel Audité peuvent s'adresser au siège social de la société.

Pour la société,  
**BANQUE DE GESTION EDMOND DE ROTHSCHILD LUXEMBOURG**  
- Société Anonyme -  
20, boulevard Emmanuel Servais  
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*The Associated Press.*

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**World Roundup**

**Becker's Comeback Is Cut Short**



**TENNIS** Boris Becker, playing just his second match after returning from a wrist injury, pulled a thigh muscle in the second set Thursday and lost, 4-6, 6-3, 6-1, to Lionel Roux in the Japan Open. Becker won the first set and was up 2-0 before hurting his right thigh.

Top seed Richard Krajicek saved eight of nine break points against him in the first set and beat Magnus Norman of Sweden 7-5, 6-0.

• Thomas Muster, the reigning champion, crashed out of the Barcelona Open on Thursday after failing to cope with either the wind or his temper against Cedric Pioline. Muster broke his racket on the ground after losing a first set tie-break and then responded to jeers by gesturing back to the crowd before finally losing, 7-6, 6-4. (Reuters)

**Jamison Stays in School; Thomas Leaves**

**BASKETBALL** North Carolina forward Antawn Jamison said he will remain in school and forgo the NBA draft. • Tim Thomas is leaving Villanova after only one season to enter the NBA draft, according to reports. The forward averaged 16.9 points as a freshman.

• Darryl Hardy, a junior center for Winston-Salem State, said he will make himself available for the NBA draft. Hardy averaged 18.8 points and 10.6 rebounds. (AP)

**Soccer Causes Brain Damage, Study Says**

**SOCCER** Soccer may cause brain damage—even more brain damage than American football, Finnish researchers said in a report to be published Friday. Eleven out of 15 amateur soccer players showed potential signs of brain damage, compared to seven out of 17 American football players, a team from the University of Helsinki found.

The scientists used magnetic resonance imaging to look inside the brains of 15 soccer players, 17 football players and 20 nonathletes. Soccer players run the risk of clashing heads, and regularly hit the ball with their heads. Brain damage has also been linked with other sports, such as riding, in which the brain is shaken. (Reuters)

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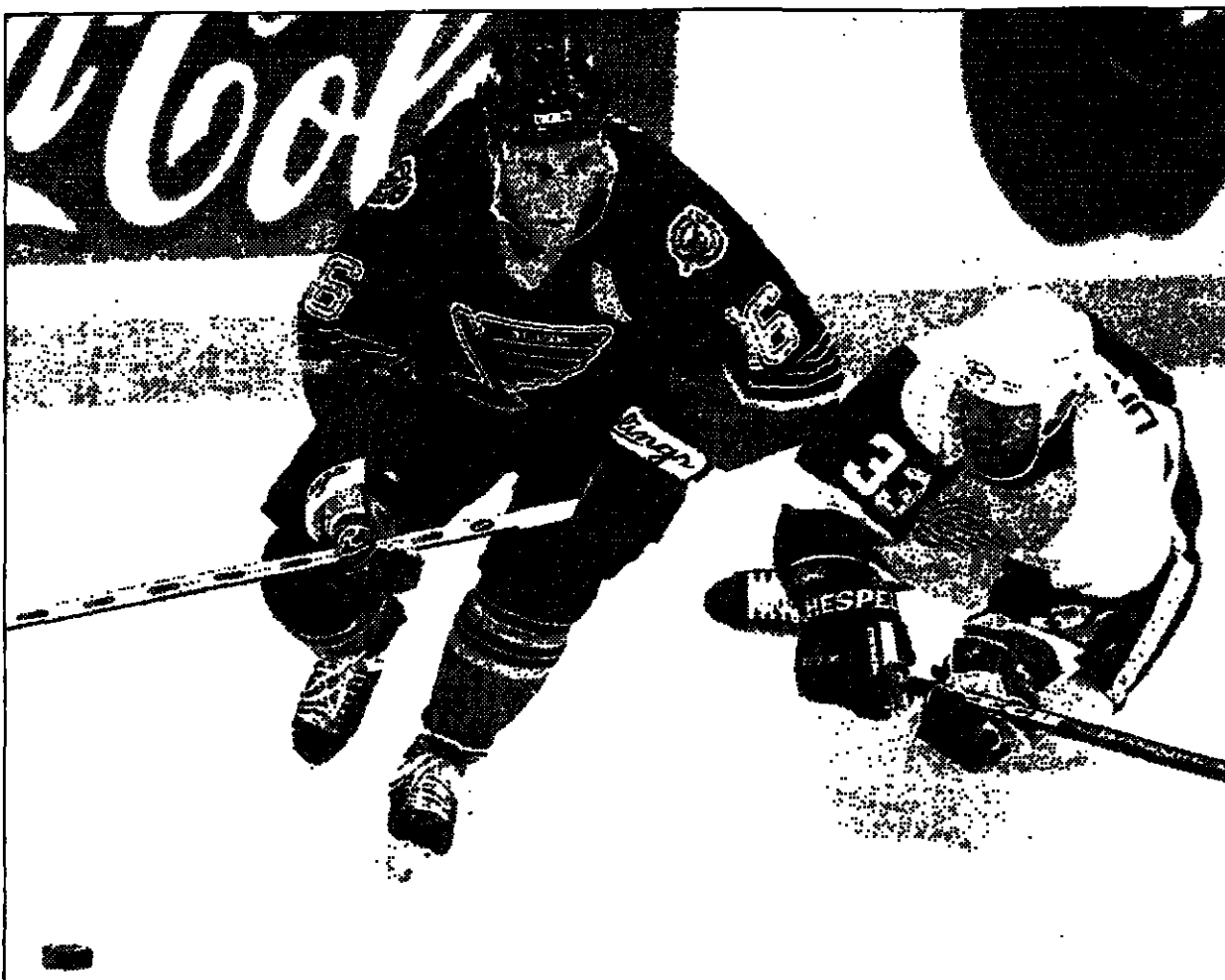
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Brett Hull of the Blues, left, skating away from Kris Draper of the Red Wings in the Blues' 2-0 playoff victory.

**Roy Picks Up Where He Left Off  
Avalanche Blank Blackhawks to Open Cup Defense**

The Associated Press

The 1997 NHL playoffs started the way they ended in 1996: with a shutout by Patrick Roy.

Ten months ago, Roy was flawless in the net into a third overtime as Colorado beat the Florida Panthers, 1-0, to win its first Stanley Cup. He was perfect again Wednesday night in the Avalanche's opening playoff game this season, a 6-0 rout of the Chicago Blackhawks.

"The shutout is not the big thing—it's the win," Roy said. "It was important that we played with a lot of discipline."

The host Avalanche took advantage of the playoff inexperience of the Blackhawks' goalie, Jeff Hackett, scoring four goals in the first period, two by Peter Forsberg.

Roy ran his shutout streak to 213 minutes, 11 seconds. The NHL record is 248:32 by Detroit's Norm Smith in 1936. Roy also posted his 87th playoff victory, one shy of the NHL record of 88 by the former New York Islanders goalie, Billy Smith.

The game was filled with penalties and fights, especially in the second and third periods. Perhaps the most telling statistic in the game was that Chicago had as many penalties (22) as shots on goal.

"We had a game plan and we stuck to it," the Avalanche's captain, Joe Sakic, said. "They changed their game plan in the second and third period. I can't say what their goal was, but obviously things got a little out of hand there."

The game featured a combined 36 penalties for 124 minutes, including five 10-minute misconducts.

Roy finished with 22 saves, including consecutive stops on Sergei Krivokrasov early in the third period.

Hackett, installed as the Blackhawks' No. 1 goalie after Ed Belfour was traded to San Jose on Jan. 25, had not given up more than four goals in any game this season.

**NHL PLAYOFFS**

But in his other playoff start, Game 2 of last year's second-round series, Colorado also scored four goals against him in the first period.

**Mighty Ducks 4, Coyotes 2** With most of the noisy sellout crowd in Anaheim wearing white shirts and frantically waving white towels, the Mighty Ducks made their playoff debut with a victory over Phoenix.

The white-towel ritual was used by the fans in Winnipeg for their Jets, who moved to Phoenix and became the Coyotes last summer. This is the first playoff series for the Coyotes since the move, so the fans of the Mighty Ducks, who host the first two games of the best-of-7 series, beat the Phoenix fans to the punch.

"It's an incredible feeling to see all those people going crazy waving their towels," said Anaheim's goalie, Guy Hebert, who stopped 29 shots and shut out the Coyotes in the third period to preserve the victory.

Another acquisition from the Jets

played a prominent role on the ice for the Mighty Ducks: Teemu Selanne. Selanne, who played for Winnipeg from 1992 until he was traded to Anaheim 14 months ago, had two goals and an assist in the victory over his former teammates.

Selanne and his linemate, Paul Kariya, one of the league's highest-scoring duos, accounted for all of Anaheim's goals. Kariya also had two goals and an assist.

The Mighty Ducks scored twice in the first period and led all the way, although the Coyotes kept it close until Kariya was pulled down from behind and awarded an empty-net goal after Phoenix pulled its goalie in the final minute.

**Blues 2, Red Wings 0** Grant Fuhr notched his fourth playoff shutout as St. Louis defeated Detroit on first-period goals by Geoff Courtnall and Pierre Turgeon.

The Red Wings, hoping to end a 42-year Stanley Cup drought—the NHL's longest—staged a mild rally in the third period, outshooting the Blues, 15-6, but Fuhr turned away every challenge.

**Stars 5, Oilers 3** Mike Modano scored the tiebreaker on a rebound with 2:31 left as Dallas overcame Edmonton.

Modano, the Stars' leading scorer, was held to only two shots before he beat Curtis Joseph to break a 3-3 tie. Brent Gilchrist followed with an open-goal at 1:03 to put away the Oilers, playing in their first playoff game in five years.

**Bullets Dash Pacers' Playoff Hopes**

The Associated Press

The Washington Bullets ended Indiana's seven-year playoff run and enhanced their own chances of qualifying for postseason play by beating the Pacers, 103-90, on Wednesday night.

Rod Strickland had a season-high 34 points and 13 assists for the Bullets, who maintained a one-game lead over Cleveland in the race for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

The Cavaliers kept pace by beating Orlando, 78-63.

Washington, trying to end an eight-year playoff drought, will play host to Orlando on Friday before closing its season Sunday in Cleveland.

The loss ended any chance the Pacers had to slip into the playoffs. Indiana, which reached the Eastern Conference finals two years ago, was seeking a team-record sixth straight road win.

Strickland, who was 11-for-18 from the field and made 12 of 14 free throws, just missed matching his career high of 36 points.

Juwan Howard scored 25 points for the Bullets, who never trailed in the second half. Chris Webber, playing at center for the injured Gheorghe Muresan, had 20 points and 12 rebounds.

Dale Davis led Indiana with 20 points, and Jalen Rose had 17.

**Cavaliers 78, Magic 63** In Cleveland, Tyrone Hill had 19 points and 10 rebounds as the Cavs held the Magic to their second-lowest point total of the season. Orlando played without center Rony Seikaly, who got a chance to rest two sprained ankles after

the Magic clinched the seventh Eastern Conference playoff berth on Monday. Orlando's other starters sat out most of the fourth quarter.

**Heat 102, Bulls 92** In Miami, the Heat won their 60th game and denied Chicago its 70th victory. Jamal Mashburn scored 23 points for Miami, while Tim Hardaway had 22, and Alonzo Mourning scored 21.

Scottie Pippen scored 28 points for Chicago, and Michael Jordan added 26.

The Bulls have one more chance to reach 70 wins for the second straight season. They close their regular season at home against New York on Saturday.

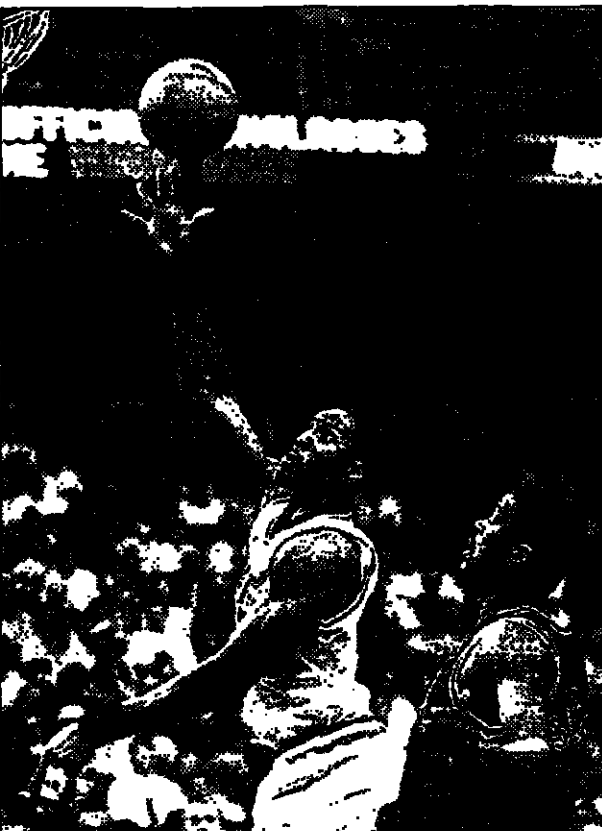
**Hornets 108, Celtics 102** Tony Delk scored 17 of his 18 points in the second half as Charlotte won in Boston to set a franchise record with its ninth straight victory.

Glen Rice scored 25 points, and Anthony Mason had 15 points and 12 rebounds for the Hornets.

Antoine Walker had 23 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for Boston's first triple double of the season.

**Knicks 96, Hawks 92** In New York, Patrick Ewing scored 24 points, including his team's final six, as the Knicks moved into a tie with Atlanta for the No. 3 seed in the East. New York won the season series with the Hawks, so the Knicks would get the third seed if the teams were to finish in a tie.

**Pistons 92, Bucks 85** Theo Ratliff had a career-high 25 points and a season-high 12 rebounds, and Aaron McKie just missed a triple double as Detroit won without its injured star Grant Hill. McKie finished with a season-high 18 points, a career-high 12



Alonzo Mourning of the Heat shooting over the Bulls.

rebounds and eight assists. Glenn Robinson led the visiting Bucks with 25 points.

**Nets 92, Timberwolves 77** Michael Finley scored 16 of his 19 points in the second half as Dallas ended a two-year losing streak against the Timberwolves.

Kevin Garnett had 16 points and nine rebounds for the Wolves, who lost their third straight at home.

**Blazers 112, Nets 105** In New Jersey, two Philadelphia streaks came to an end: the team's eight-game losing

streak and Allen Iverson's run of five consecutive games scoring 40 or more points. He hit 27 against the Nets.

**Trail Blazers 107, Nuggets 83** In Portland, the Trail Blazers held Denver to its lowest point total ever, breaking the previous low set in a 105-65 loss to the Blazers this season. Kenny Anderson had 16 points, 10 assists and five steals in 27 minutes for the Blazers, who set a team record for fewest points allowed.

Tom Hammond scored 14 for the Nuggets, who lost their ninth straight.

**After Celebration, NY (and the Mets) Return to Earth**

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

**NEW YORK** — With the dignitaries and a big, emotional crowd gone from Shea Stadium — perhaps for the remainder of this already dreary Met season — there was little that felt special.

But the day after the tribute to Jackie Robinson, the craftsmanship of Pedro Astacio and Brett Butler of the Dodgers quickly turned a lazy day into something memorable.

Astacio and three relievers held the Mets to one hit, an eighth-inning leadoff double by Carlos Baerga just inside the first-base line, in a 5-2 Los

Angeles victory on Wednesday. The one-hitter took shape because of Astacio's ability to exploit the anxiousness of a team that was expected to hit and has not.

Butler had five singles, the fifth time in his career that he has had that many hits in a game.

Through seven innings, Astacio allowed three base-runners on two walks and an infield error. The first Met to reach base, Lance Johnson, advanced on a balk and a groundout and scored on Bernard Gilkey's sacrifice fly in the first inning.

The Dodgers built a 5-1 lead on a pair of two-run homers: Wilton Guerrero's first major-league home run and a towering shot by Eric Karros in the seventh inning.

**Rockies 4, Cubs 0** Chicago set the mark for the worst start in National League history, making three more errors as they extended their losing streak to 12 with a loss to Colorado.

"That is the worst baseball game I've seen played at this level," the Cubs' manager, Jim Riggleman said. "We're unhappy about the losing streak, but all of us are totally ashamed of the ball game today."

The Cubs have lost 26 of their last 28 games back to last season, and have the fourth-worst start ever, trailing the 1904 Washington Senators and 1920 Detroit Tigers (each 0-13) and the 1988 Baltimore Orioles (0-21).

Chicago, which has 21 errors this season, broke the modern NL record of 0-10 set by Atlanta in 1988 and the overall NL record of 0-11 by the old Detroit Wolverines in 1884.

Roger Bailey pitched a five-hitter for his first career shutout. Colorado won its sixth straight road game, tying a team record set in 1993.

**Giants 6, Phillies 5** Glenallen Hill homered twice and drove in four runs, and visiting San Francisco scored twice without getting a hit in the 10th inning.

**Padres 7, Pirates 5** Fernando Valenzuela made his second strong start against the Pirates in eight days, allowing five hits in seven innings and leaving with a 6-1 lead at Pittsburgh.

**Mariners 7, Tigers 3** In Detroit, Randy Johnson went seven solid innings in his third start of the season, allowing three hits and four walks with 10 strikeouts.

**Brewers 7, Yankees 4** In Milwaukee, Fernando Vina had three hits, including a tie-breaking, two-run single, as the Brewers handed New York its fourth straight loss.

"It's one of those downside things that is going to turn around," the Yankees' manager, Joe Torre, said. "The only thing that would bother me is if the guys were going through the motions, and I know I don't see that."

**Bike days 4, Athletics 3** In Toronto, Otis Nixon singled home the winning run in the ninth inning.

**Rangers 2, Royals 0** In Kansas City, Lee Stevens homered for the second straight night, and John Burkett shut down Kansas City.

**Twins 4, Angels 2** In Minneapolis, the Twins turned five double plays, and Chris Latham doubled home a run with his first major-league hit. (NTT, AP)

**Little League Rules Make Taiwan Balk**

The Associated Press

The crowds in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, used to boo when the team from Taiwan took the field for another Little League World Series championship run.

Now, after 12 championships in 23 years and numerous blowout victories, Taiwan is quitting Little League baseball over a rule dispute.

The withdrawal is a big blow to Taiwan, said David Tsai of the Center for Taiwan International Relations in Washington. "Whichever team made it to the World Series, it has a lot of prestige for that school or country. This is a loss."

Little League officials said Wednesday that Taiwan broke league rules by drawing players from an area with too large a population, even though they came from a single school. The Little League World Series is for select teams, each of which represents a league. Rules require a minimum of four teams per league and forbid teams to draw players from areas with a population larger than 20,000. In high-density areas, one league is permitted per 1,000 students in grades up to seventh grade.

In Taiwan, single leagues were pulling from schools with more than 3,000 children, said Lance Van Auker, a spokesman for Little League Baseball.

On Wednesday, the Taiwan association faxed notice of its withdrawal to Williamsport.

Van Auker said: "Cultural differences. Those are the words they used. They simply didn't want to have three leagues in that one school. That in itself gives them a distinct competitive advantage."

Kenny Yang, of the Taiwan association, said, "We're under a lot of pressure from schools about this, so this year we're not going to come. But we'll see how things go afterward."

"I think this might even pique people's interest. If you take them out of the mix, it might make other people think they have a chance," Van Auker said.

Chant Fix  
a Victory

FOREBOARD

THE MINACE

INTERNATIONAL REPERTORY



## SPORTS

## Fans Chant 'Fix' After a Victory

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

Fans of Vasco da Gama of Brazil, chanting "robbery" and "it's a fix" after their own team scored in the fourth and sixth minute of injury time to beat Volta Redonda 2-1 in a Rio de Janeiro championship match.

## Soccer Roundup

At the end of a tumultuous game, referee Carlos Alberto Dutra was chased off the field by furious Volta Redonda players and officials. One unidentified man kicked the referee from behind just before he reached the locker room.

Volta Redonda, one of the competition's small teams, had taken a fifth-minute lead in the game at Vasco's ground on Wednesday night.

The fans' suspicions were aroused in the second half, when Volta Redonda had Fabio and Denilson sent off, apparently for arguing. Volta Redonda still managed to hold on until Vasco's Ramon equalized in the fourth minute of injury time.

The referee was surrounded by Volta Redonda players, causing the almost inevitable

invasion, with the police, reporters and hangers-on all rushing onto the field. The referee told reporters on the field that he would add two minutes and in the 96th minute of play, Ramon struck again.

England's Steve Claridge scored in extra time to give Leicester a 1-0 victory in the English League Cup final replay over Middlesbrough.

Claridge, who put Leicester into the premier league with a last minute goal in a play-off last season, volleyed home a Steve Walsh cross after 99 minutes of a tight cup tie.

Emerson squandered a chance to equalize a minute later, but Middlesbrough, willing at the end of its third two-hour cup tie in 10 days, had nothing left to offer.

The victory put Leicester into next season's UEFA Cup. Liverpool missed a chance to go top of the premier league when it tied with neighbor Everton.

Jamie Redknapp put Liverpool ahead but Duncan Ferguson leveled for Everton. Robbie Fowler, Liverpool's leading goal scorer was sent off eight minutes from time for fighting with Everton de-



Leicester's Spencer Prior, left, tackling Middlesbrough striker Fabrizio Ravanelli.

fender David Unsworth. Fowler will be suspended until the end of the season, but his ban will start after Saturday's game against league leader Manchester United.

Spain's Real Madrid took a decisive step in pursuit of their 27th Spanish league crown Wednesday when it overturned a 2-0 deficit to beat bottom-placed Sevilla 4-2 while second-placed Bar-

celona lost 3-1 at Valladolid. France's Jean-Pierre Papin scored twice in 12 minutes to give Bordeaux a 2-1 home win over title-chasing Monaco.

Papin struck in the 50th and 62nd minutes. Enzo Scifo scored for Monaco with an injury-time penalty.

Germany's Stuttgart advanced to the German Cup final with a tight 2-1 victory over Hamburg.

Stuttgart, which met eastern German regional league side Cottbus Energie in the June 14 final in Berlin.

## Draft Dodger a Hit in Europe

By Mike Carlson  
Special to the Herald Tribune

The NFL Draft starts Saturday. Teams spend millions of dollars researching the talents and personalities of players, but still they miss potential stars.

Sam Mills, Carolina's all-pro linebacker was never drafted. He fell through the cracks of the NFL's scouting network. For Jon Kim, quarterback of the World League of American Football's Barcelona Dragons, the cracks were more like a black hole.

Kim completed his first 13 passes and threw for three touchdowns to lead the Dragons to a 27-12 victory over the Rhein Fire last Saturday.

Kim was allocated to the WLAF by the Seattle Seahawks, and some scouts say he's a good bet to follow Brad Johnson and Scott Mitchell, who turned World League success into NFL careers.

Two years ago, at tiny Central Washington University, Kim's senior-year numbers looked like Dan Marino's: 576 passes, 364 completions (63.2 percent), 4,616 yards and 42 touchdowns. The Wildcats went to their divisional national-championship game, which ended in a draw.

This was NAIA Division II, Kim said. "You played to feel good about yourself, so everyone thought a tie was the perfect result. Nobody lost."

Pro scouts pay little attention to what is, in effect, college football's sixth division. Kim got lucky. One of his teammates was the nephew of Dennis Erickson, the Seattle Seahawks' head coach. Erickson watched a couple of games and arranged for a scout to take some of the Wildcat players. The nephew and Kim were the only two to show up.

Kim was undrafted. Erickson offered him

a job on the Seahawks' practice squad last season, running opposition plays against the Seahawks' defense. "I was John Elway one week and Stan Humphries the next," said Kim. "It was a great learning experience."

Part of the deal was that Kim would never demand playing time. He kept his part of the bargain, and, after the season, Seattle allocated him to the Dragons, where the head coach, Jack Bicknell, has a pass-oriented attack.

Barcelona also had Stony Case, the No. 2 quarterback on the Arizona Cardinals' depth chart. When Case went back to Arizona to have an aching shoulder checked, Kim moved in as number one. Kim's performance last Saturday clinched the spot, at least for now. "We liked Jon's arm and poise," said Bicknell, "but what surprised us was the way he moved."

Kim scrambled for 43 yards and bought time for receivers to get open. "He showed the ability to see the open man while he was moving," Bicknell said, "and to throw across his body and get the ball there. That's rare."

"No team in this league used one quarterback last year, and we won't this year," Bicknell said. "I think Stony's as good as anyone in the league, and he understands the situation."

Case's main competitor for the backup job in Arizona, Chad May, is the starter with the WLAF's Frankfurt Galaxy. But the Frankfurt offensive line protects May so poorly that he doesn't seem to be gaining an advantage over Case.

Meanwhile, if Kim is to get a job in Seattle, he'll have to beat out Stan Gelbaugh, who took the London Monarchs to the first WLAF championship in 1991. "I'll deal with that when I get back to camp," with Seattle, said Kim. "Right now, I'm happy to be playing in Barcelona."

## SCOREBOARD

## BASEBALL

## MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

## AMERICAN LEAGUE

## EAST DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
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Baltimore	7	3	.700	0
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Seattle	5	5	.500	2
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Toronto	5	5	.500	2
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New York	5	5	.500	2
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Minnesota	4	6	.400	3
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Kansas City	3	7	.300	4
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Cleveland	3	7	.300	4
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Chicago	4	6	.400	3
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West Division	W <td>L<td>Pct.<td>GB</td></td></td>	L <td>Pct.<td>GB</td></td>	Pct. <td>GB</td>	GB
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Seattle	5	5	.500	0
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San Francisco	4	6	.400	1
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Oakland	3	7	.300	2
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San Diego	3	7	.300	2
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Arizona	3	7	.300	2
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Los Angeles	3	7	.300	2
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Colorado	3	7	.300	2
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St. Louis	3	7	.300	2
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Chicago	3	7	.300	2
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San Francisco	3	7	.300	2
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San Diego	3	7	.300	2
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Los Angeles	3	7	.300	2
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Colorado	3	7	.300	2
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St. Louis	3	7	.300	2
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San Francisco	3	7	.300	2
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San Diego	3	7	.300	2
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Colorado	3	7	.300	2
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St. Louis	3	7	.300	2
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Los Angeles	3	7	.300	2
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Colorado	3	7	.300	2
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Los Angeles	3	7	.300	2
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Colorado	3	7	.300	2
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San Francisco	3	7	.300	2
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San Diego	3	7	.300	2
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Los Angeles	3	7	.300	2
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Colorado	3	7	.300	2
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St. Louis	3	7	.300	2
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## D-2, St. Louis (4), HRS-New York, T. Martinez (2), Milwaukee, L. (1), B. (1)

## MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

## AMERICAN LEAGUE

## EAST DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
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Baltimore	7	3	.700	0
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Seattle	5	5	.500	2
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Toronto	5	5	.500	2
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New York	5	5	.500	2
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Minnesota	4	6	.400	3
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Kansas City	3	7	.300	4
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Cleveland	3	7	.300	4
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Chicago	4	6	.400	3
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West Division	W <td>L<td>Pct.<td>GB</td></td></td>	L <td>Pct.<td>GB</td></td>	Pct. <td>GB</td>	GB
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Seattle	5	5	.500	0
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San Francisco	4	6	.400	1
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Oakland	3	7	.300	2
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San Diego	3	7	.300	2
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Arizona	3	7	.300	2
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Los Angeles	3	7	.300	2
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Colorado	3	7	.300	2
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St. Louis	3	7	.300	2
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Chicago	3	7	.300	2
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San Francisco	3	7	.300	2
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San Diego	3	7	.300	2
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Los Angeles	3	7	.300	2
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Colorado	3	7	.300	2
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St. Louis	3	7	.300	2
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Chicago	3	7	.300	2
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San Francisco	3	7	.300	2
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San Diego	3	7	.300	2
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Los Angeles	3	7	.300	2
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Colorado	3	7	.300	2
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St. Louis	3	7	.300	2
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Chicago	3	7	.300	2
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San Francisco	3	7	.300	2
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San Diego	3	7	.300	2
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Los Angeles	3	7	.300	2
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Colorado	3	7	.300	2
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St. Louis	3	7	.300	2
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Chicago	3	7	.300	2
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San Francisco	3	7	.300	2
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San Diego	3	7	.300	2
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Los Angeles	3	7	.300	2
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Colorado	3	7	.300	2
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St. Louis	3	7	.300	2
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Chicago	3	7	.300	2
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San Francisco	3	7	.300	2
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San Diego	3	7	.300	2
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Los Angeles	3	7	.300	2
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Colorado	3	7	.300	2
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St. Louis	3	7	.300	2
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Chicago	3	7	.300	2
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San Francisco	3	7	.300	2
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San Diego	3	7	.300	2
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Los Angeles	3	7	.300	2
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Colorado	3	7	.300	2
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St. Louis	3	7	.300	2
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## D-2, St. Louis (4), HRS-New York, T. Martinez (2), Milwaukee, L. (1), B. (1)

## MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

## AMERICAN LEAGUE

## EAST DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
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Baltimore	7	3	.700	0
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Seattle	5	5	.500	2
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Toronto	5	5	.500	2
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New York	5	5	.500	2
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Minnesota	4	6	.400	3
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Kansas City	3	7	.300	4
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Cleveland	3	7	.300	4
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Chicago	4	6	.400	3
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West Division	W <td>L<td>Pct.<td>GB</td></td></td>	L <td>Pct.<td>GB</td></td>	Pct. <td>GB</td>	GB
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Seattle	5	5	.500	0
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## OBSERVER

## Pushing Up Daisies

By Russell Baker

NEW YORK — Mafia killers, if we can believe "The Godfather," notify the higher-ups that someone has been bumped off by saying, "He sleeps with the fishes." This reveals Americans' fastidious distaste, even among our more uncouth citizens, for forthright talk about death and murder.

American English is rich in such mush-mouth talk. Consider "bumped off." Though not so poetic as "sleeps with the fishes," it discloses the same prissy reluctance to wallow in vulgar reality.

In reality, the victim may have been garroted with piano wire or slowly dismantled with a delicatessen salami slicer. How much more pleasant to hear that he has simply been "bumped off," as if some awkward doer had elbowed him off the curb.

Murderers probably don't say "bumped off" these days. Like most of us, murderers probably hate to seem out of touch with the new trends, and "bumped off" sounds as antique as a black-and-white movie starring Edward G. Robinson.

In Robinson's day, murderers didn't confine themselves to the "bump-off." Often they took their victims for "a little ride."

Afterward the deceased was said to be "pushing up the daisies," not "a-mouldering in his grave" like John Brown's body.

Murderers, incidentally, are rarely "murderers" anymore. They are "hit men," not precisely like Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron but, you know, not terribly bad chaps either, like — well — murderers are. "Hit man" sounds

like an honest craftsman who might live next door. Kids would probably admire him. American entertainment and news are deeply dependent on death and killing to hold our attention.

Politically motivated killers who murder whole groups of people for publicity purposes are dignified as claimants. After a massacre, the press usually reports that this gang or that has "claimed responsibility" for the deed.

The squeamishness about saying "murder" pushes politicians into comically grisly expressions. In Argentina, politically inconvenient people were not murdered by the government; they were "disappeared."

□

During the Vietnam War the CIA did not murder inconvenient characters. Indeed, why should it have done so? Why stoop to murder when you can "terminate with extreme prejudice"?

In the last war our soldiers were "greased," or "bought the farm," or just "bought it." With their weapons they "wasted" the enemy.

"Wasting" has become such a cute synonym for killing that it now turns up frequently in movies, with murderers ordering their fellow murderers to "waste 'im" or "waste 'er" or "waste 'em all."

So all our finicky metaphors for death now bring us to a moment when we don't even allow humans enough dignity to be bumped off, but treat them as disposable garbage unfit to push up the daisies, or go for a little ride or sleep with the fishes.

We ought to speak better than that of murder. It does so much to beguile us.

New York Times Service

## Roseanne Bows Out of TV to Tackle Land of Oz

By Bernard Weinraub  
New York Times Service

LOS ANGELES — Nine years after the birth of her benchmark television series, Roseanne is exhausted. The pop culture star who created "Roseanne" sat slumped

**'It's so weird: I never identified with that nice girl Dorothy, only with the Wicked Witch.'**

on a sofa in her manager's office the other day, saying she hoped to take a year off when the show ended in May, except for a three-week engagement in New York City as, of all things, the Wicked Witch in "The Wizard of Oz."

"It's so weird: I never identified with that nice girl Dorothy, only with the Wicked Witch who has all this sinister wisdom," said Roseanne, who has already begun rehearsals for her appearance at Madison Square Garden from May 7 to June 1. She began laughing. "I grew up in Salt Lake City, a dark girl among all the blondes. The Wicked Witch was so strong and outrageous. Oh, I love her."

For the moment, the finale of "Roseanne" on May 20 — after 224 episodes and 4 Emmy Awards — consumes her. Few television shows or stars have blurred the line between art and life as does "Roseanne," and few sitcoms have defined the culture, or at least a part of it, as did this series about the working-class Cornors of Lanford, Illinois, whose children weren't destined for Harvard, who were more anxious about keeping jobs than losing weight.

"The show was about women, gender, politics, the working class," Roseanne said emphatically. "Did I think it would be successful? I actually did. Because I knew it was filling a void."

Beyond this, few television stars have been as defiant and outrageous as Roseanne, a high school dropout who grew up poor in Salt Lake City, lived in an artists' colony near Denver as a teenager, had

four children by her early 20s, worked as a cocktail waitress and window dresser, became a stand-up comic and barely eked out a living until she struck gold with "Roseanne." She jokes about being a domestic goddess in a trailer park. "Nobody has really been able to

replicate the family or class thing on television and you know why?" she said pointedly. "Because none of 'em are from there."

In recent weeks ABC has turned down a deal with the Carsey-Werner Co., the producers, to bring back "Roseanne," whose ratings have slipped, for another season. Roseanne shrugs it off. "Actually I was relieved," she said. "Everybody started rattling my chains. 'Maybe we'll do another season.' I said, 'Make me an offer I can't refuse.' And they didn't. So it's over. My heart wasn't in it anyway."

Roseanne, now 44, says she has been offered numerous proposals for a talk show — and may do one — and perhaps a film (she starred with Meryl Streep in the poorly received "She Devil" in 1989), but that she plans to take time off after "The Wizard of Oz" to write. "I'm so afraid of getting tricked into selling out that I've totally isolated myself," said Roseanne, who says she views herself primarily as a writer rather than a performer. "So I think I'm going to take a year or so to like, recharge and open up again, without saying anything, figure out what I'm supposed to say now."

Roseanne spoke cautiously at first, then bluntly, about the subjects that engage or annoy her. These included what she views as the snobbishness of the women's movement ("They're afraid of working-class women, horrified of them"), the condescension of male television executives ("I was the lone woman in their lives who

didn't accommodate them, and you could see the meltdown"), the impact of her show ("I see the ripples of it everywhere: on other shows, on advertising, on politics"), tabloid newspapers ("The tabloids have treated me like royalty—I'm always in there, good or bad — while the critics have generally treated me like trash"), Jackie Gleason ("my ultimate god") and success ("It's like, isolating, and makes you feel like an alien from another planet, totally without any kind of fellowship").

As for her raucous reputation for abruptly dismissing writers and being abusive on the set, Roseanne shrugged it off. "With some of them it was their first or second job," she said. "I wouldn't take pandering or garbage and I wanted everything to have meaning and so, like, these people who hated me the most went on to become millionaires." She grinned.

Roseanne's life is an open book, far too open, said some critics who view her with dismay. Once labeled "the human tabloid" — in 1989 she was on more magazine covers in one year than anyone in history — she describes a past that sounds like the plot of a soap opera. After being hit by a car at the age of 16, she was sent to a state psychiatric hospital for eight months. At 18, she dropped out of high school to live a bohemian life; gave birth to a daughter, Brandi, who was given up for adoption and surfaced years later;



"Roseanne" is ending after 224 episodes and 4 Emmys.

married young and had three more children. Her second marriage, to the comedian Tom Arnold, was so tumultuous that even the tabloids seemed to be saying, "Enough!"

There were stories about split personalities, assertions of childhood sexual abuse, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, a scandalous, crotch-grabbing rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner." She underwent cosmetic surgery and wrote two best sellers. Two years ago she married her bodyguard, Ben Thomas. They have a year-old son, Buck.

What's obvious is that her oversize ego masks a shrewd and complex personality, a woman who reads Virginia Woolf and Jane Austen, a woman who borrowed heavily from such television shows as "All in the Family," and "The Honeymooners" and then moved out entirely new television terrain.

"She quite simply revolutionized the portrayal of gender issues on television," Bernard Welt, chairman of the department of academic studies at the Corcoran School of Art, wrote recently in Art Issues magazine. "Unlike Paul Reiser or Jerry Seinfeld, her barbs have always been aimed at social targets: she may be the first great comedian of a generation to see domestic life in political terms."

Because she dominated prime-time television for years and dealt with serious issues like joblessness and the problems facing working mothers, Roseanne made plain that she is angry that feminist groups have neither honored her nor treated her with respect. She attributes that to the fact that she "didn't go to Vassar" and that she never played a victim.

"I grew up a working-class woman," she said. "That's who I was around. Those women inspired me. These women are thousands of times stronger and more open and tolerant than those women at the top who depend on the working-class women to stay where they are."

## PEOPLE



Arnold Schwarzenegger (in Prague in 1996) has had heart surgery.

THE action-movie star Arnold Schwarzenegger has had elective heart surgery to replace a heart valve. Schwarzenegger opted to have the aortic valve replaced even though it wasn't causing him any problems, his spokeswoman, Catherine Olim, said. "I've never felt sick or had any symptoms at all, but I knew I'd have to take care of this condition sooner or later," Schwarzenegger said in a statement. "I said to the doctors, 'Let's do it now, while I'm young and healthy.' They agreed this was the way to go." He is not expected to need medication or to alter his lifestyle, his doctors said. The star of the "Terminator" movies plans to rest until the end of May, when he will begin promoting "Batman and Robin."

Warner Bros.' hottest duck just turned 60. And for his birthday, Daffy Duck got his own Web site. The on-line site features a trivia contest and Daffy sound bites. Since his 1937 debut in "Porky's Duck Hunt," Daffy has appeared in more than 120 cartoons. He

still has his own Saturday morning TV series in the United States, and a weekday afternoon show.

Dustin Hoffman has two Oscars and an Emmy, and soon he'll have a Britannia. He will receive the British Academy of Film and Television Arts' highest honor, the Britannia Award, this fall for his contribution to the international entertainment industry, the academy's Los Angeles chapter announced. "For over 30 years, Dustin Hoffman has created some of the most unforgettable characters in the history of cinema," the Britannia Award co-chairs, Jane DeKnatel and Su Lesser, said. Previous winners include Anthony Hopkins, Peter Ustinov and Martin Scorsese.

A topless Elizabeth Hurley, the actress-model girlfriend of Hugh Grant, was splashed across two pages of Paris-Match magazine, a "mysterious unknown" applying suntan lotion to her

back. The magazine said it had photographed Hurley — from a distance — on April 10 as she lay by the pool of her Beverly Hills home. "Liz Flaunts Her Revenge," read the headline. In 1995, Grant was arrested with a prostitute in Los Angeles. The actor pleaded no contest to lewd conduct, was fined and placed on two years' probation.

Michael Jackson, who was to have been the star of the show at the World Music Awards this week in Monaco, has pulled out, organizers said. Jackson was to have been joint guest of honor with Jon Bon Jovi at the televised awards ceremony at the Monte Carlo Sporting Club on Thursday. The show was to bestow prizes for top world sales to Celine Dion of Canada and the American group the Fugees. No explanation was given for Jackson's no-show.

Maxim's plans to auction off 8,000 bottles from the Paris restaurant's cellar

to make room for newer vintages and raise a bit of money. The owner of Maxim's, Pierre Cardin, noted that he was trying to buy more real estate on Rue Royale, where Maxim's is situated. Some proceeds will go to the Claude Pompidou Foundation, which cares for elderly and handicapped people.

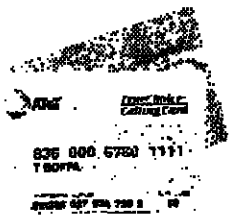
The playwright and novelist Thornton Wilder was a devoted supporter of the MacDowell Colony, a retreat for artists, composers and writers in Peterborough, New Hampshire. So what better way to celebrate the 100th anniversary of his birth than with "A Wilder Evening," to benefit the colony? During the evening at the University Club in New York, songs from two musicals in the planning, "Grover's Corners" and "The Skin of Our Teeth," both based on Wilder plays, were performed, and a one-act comedy, "Cement Hands," had its world premiere, starring Kevin Kline. Wilder was born on April 17, 1897.



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Czech Republic	00-42-000-101
France	0-800-99-0011
Germany	0130-0010
Greece	00-800-1311
Ireland	1-800-630-088
Italy	722-1011
Netherlands	0800-022-0111
Russia	755-2042
Spain	800-89-00-11
Sweden	020-795-011
Switzerland	0800-89-0111
United Kingdom	0800-89-0111
MIDDLE EAST	
Egypt (Cairo)	010-0200
Israel	177-100-2727
Saudi Arabia	1-800-16
AFRICA	
Kenya	0191
South Africa	0-800-10
South Africa	0-800-89-0123

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